

## Unseen Sichuan Part II

# The Enchanting Paradise of Western Sichuan in Autumn .....



---

From west of Chengdu, about 300 kilometers away, is the east border of wide Tibetan mountainous area and plateau. In this area, one will see many beautiful Tibetan villages, snow mountains, wide grassland, alpine lakes, etc. and will appeal to those who love nature and Tibetan culture plus keen in scenery photography.

**14Days / 12 nights CHENGDU –KANDING/YAIJING – LITANG / DAOCHENG /YADING/RIWA/  
XINDUQIAO/JIULONG/XINDUQIAO – TAGONG – DANBA /MA’EKANG/MIYALUO/GUERGOU-CHENGDU**

This is a comprehensive Serenity in Nature & Photography tour of one of the most beautiful alpine lakes of China ( Wuxuhai ), the largest alpine lake of Mugecuo, the Lost Horizon of the last Shangrila Region ( Daocheng/Yading/Riwa ), Litang – one of the world highest township, the photographers ‘ paradise of Xinduqiao, the mystical & scenic Tagong Grass land, the Valley of Beauty of Danba – voted as the most beautiful village of China, an amusing & most spectacular / largest maple scenic area of China – Miyaluo plus amazing snow mountains crossing along the way ..... AND most importantly, seeing above attractions in autumn weather ( cool & fresh ) and vivid autumn colour will definitely leave lasting impressions.

**Come and join this EL SOL Travel’s special selection and to see the UNSEEN SICHUAN in autumn with a difference..... 18Oct to 31Oct 2015**



## Unseen Sichuan Part II

# The Enchanting Paradise of Western Sichuan in Autumn .....

---



### **DAY 01 18Oct KLIA2 - CHENDGU – LUDING – KANDING ( D )**

FLIGHT : D7 KUL-CTU 0915 1340

Upon arriving Chengdu In'tl Airport, greet and meet and transfer to **Kanding via Yaan & Luding**.

You will pass the Erlang mountain – the first pass of the countless high mountains on the Sichuan-Tibet highway.

A short visit to the Luping Bridge\* – a historical landmark iron suspension bridge built in 1706 over Dadu River during reign of the Qing Dynasty. On the end of the bridge stands the stele Royal Stele written by Emperor Kangxi. An early dinner in Luping. *\*on condition we will arrive before dark in Luping.*

You will arrive Kanding – the capital city of Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture to overnite.

Hotel : KANDING ( local 4\* )

### **DAY 02 19Oct KANDING – MUGECUO Lake – YAJIANG (B/L/D)**

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning we will visit the largest alpine lake of Sichuan – **Mugecuo Lake**.

Upon arriving at the site, take the eco bus to the Mugecuo Lake Shore, enjoy the surrounding scenic area. You may walk in the same direction as the horse trails to gain a view of the snow covered mountains, as well as by pass some grazing yaks. Walk down the pathway to the **Seven Colours Lake** through forest and along a river. Take the eco bus after this lake to get back to our coach.

Depart Kanding for Yajiang after lunch. **Yajiang** ia a modern town of less than 10,000 residents set in a steep valley along the southern Tibet-Sichuan Highway. It consists mainly of one long street ( Jiefang Jie), with a large square in the town center and several busy side streets adjoining. The town is dusty and its buildings are modern & mostly somewhat drab, but the surrounding hillsides are attractive and there is a temple atop one of them.

Dinner and overnite in Yajiang. ( local best hotel )

## Unseen Sichuan Part II

# The Enchanting Paradise of Western Sichuan in Autumn .....



### **DAY 03 20 Oct YAJIANG – LITANG – Sangdui Valley ( Red Grassland ) - DAOCHENG (B/L/D)**

After breakfast, depart for LITANG , pass by Jianziwan & Kasila Mt.

Lunch at **LITANG**, located at an altitude of 4,014m among open grasslands & surrounded by snow-capped mountains. Its' actual altitude is about 400m higher than Lhase, making it **one of the highest townships on earth**. Buddhist figures were born here, including the 7<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, 10<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama etc. ( the current Dalai Lama is the 14<sup>th</sup> ) It is also part of the ancient & historic Tibetan Province of Kham.

A short visit around this unique town of a bustling little place with colourful street life of many nomadic shepherds and Tibetan people coming here to sell and buy their products. We will also visit the **Ganden Thubchen Choekhorling Monastery ( Litang Monastery)** which belongs to the Gelugpa Sect (Yellow) of the Tibetan Buddhism, one of the largest in the south Kham area.

Continue our journey where we will pass by the beautiful Wuliang River Valley and we shall make a stop at the **Haizi Mountain Scenic Area** ( mountains full of big big stones ). Cross the Daocheng Ancient Glacier Cap (Haizishan Nature Reserve), the largest fossil glacial site on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, to get to Shambhala--Daocheng.



Visit **Sangdui Valley** -

Continue the journey to **Daocheng, Ru Buchaca** hot spring spring source. Dinner & overnite in **Daocheng**. Daocheng- Shambhala is a pure , mystical, harmonious valley, gently guided from a lamasey, enclosed in the western end of Kunlun Mountains. It is also well known as the last Shangrila with an altitude of 3750meter, has several minorities of Qiang, Naxi & Zang people.

Hotel : Daocheng ( local best location hotel 3\*)

## Unseen Sichuan Part II

# The Enchanting Paradise of Western Sichuan in Autumn .....

---



### **DAY 04 21Oct DAOCHENG – Riwa – YADING VILLAGE (B/L/D)**

Wake up for photography of the early sun rise at the **enchanting golden Poplar Forest**.

Return for breakfast at the hotel and check out to move on to view the Panghe Scenic Spot, Bowa Dixi Pastures and the Chishang River Valley.

A short visit to the **White Tower, Bangphu Lamasery, and the Zhuji Lamasery** .

Photo-shot of the CHITU Valley along the way to **RIWA** known as the last Shangri-la ..... which is another 20km to Yading Valley. Upon arriving Yading, enjoy the breathtaking sunset view of Xiannairi (subject to the weather) Dinner and overnite in Yading Village.

Hotel: Yading ( all hotel in Yading village is quite basis )



## Unseen Sichuan Part II

# The Enchanting Paradise of Western Sichuan in Autumn .....

---



### **DAY 05 22Oct YADING Nature Reserve Park – RIWA (B/L/D)**

Wake up very early for an early journey to explore the unexploited beauty of **Yading Nature Reserve** Park, one of the highlights of this tour.

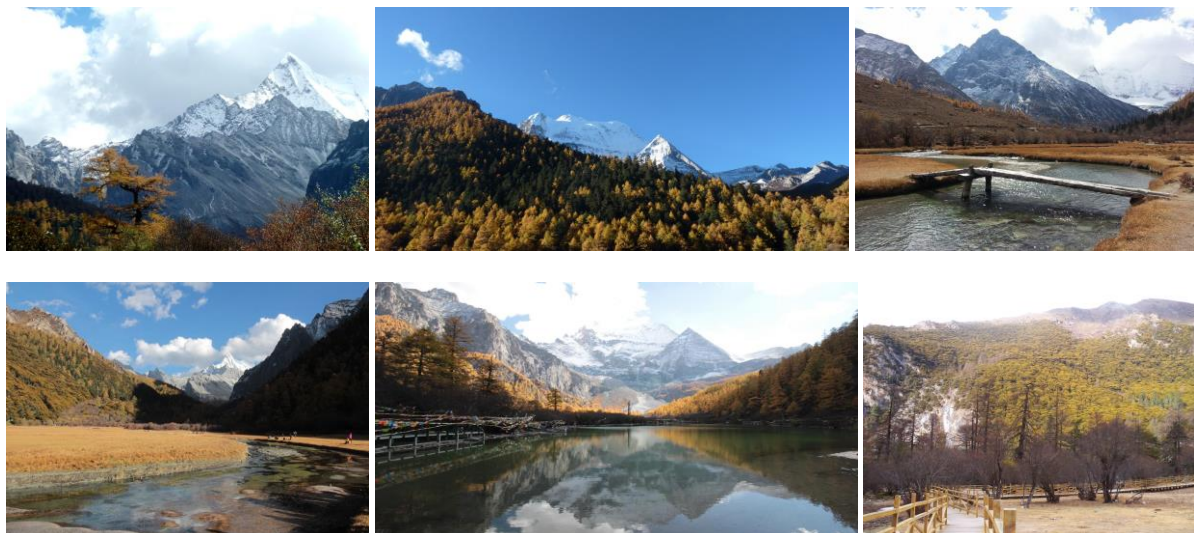
Take the Eco-shuttle tram from the Entrance point to Chonggu Temple. Walk a little further to another point to take another tram to **LUORANG Pasture**, located in an enchanting valley where the 3-Holy Peak can be viewed. Spend some time at this pasture to enjoy this nature park. Thereafter, take back the Eco-shuttle tram back to Chonggu Temple. Packed Lunch.

From the right of Chonggu Temple, walk on the plank road (40min) to **Pearl Lake** to enjoy the stunning view of XIANNAIRI and it's reflection on Pearl Lake.

Take the tram back to the ENTRANCE point. Transfer to Riwa for dinner and overnite.

Hotel : Riwa ( local 4\* , comfortable hotel )

(overnite in Riwa instead of Yading due to better hotel facility & low altitude in Riwa )



## Unseen Sichuan Part II

# The Enchanting Paradise of Western Sichuan in Autumn .....

---



### **DAY 06 23Oct Friday RIWA - XINDUQIAO ( B/L/D)**

Early morning enjoy the picturesque scenery of this **last Shangrila town of RIWA**.

Depart for Xinduqiao via Daocheng – Litang – Yajiang. This is a relatively long but relaxing journey.

En-route for photography stops along the way and also some rest for the driver.

Arrive **Xinduqiao** for dinner and overnite.

Hotel : Xinduqiao local best Hotel

### **DAY 07 24Oct Saturday XINDUQIAO – JIULONG ( B/L/D)**

Today, wake up early to enjoy **the sunrise at this beautiful Xinduqiao valley**.

After breakfast, driver & guide will take us to many unknown places to take good photos of various beautiful locations ... vast grasslands, winding creeks, golden trees, rolling hills, Tibetan villages which are scattered across.... Cattle, sheep graze peacefully next to river banks ..... **Xinduqiao**, because of its position in between mountains and vast grasslands is always known as “ **A photographers paradise**” – fascinating “Lights and Shadows of the World”

Continue the journey to **Jiulong**...enroute to visit **Riluku Grassland** – with an altitude of 3654m, Riluku scenic spot has grassland as the main body, mountains, together valleys, local-style dwelling houses and temples. It is a full range of geographical cultural landscape. Pass by the beautiful Mt Jichuo to reach Jiulong – a fascinating melting pot of Tibetan, Pumi and Yi Cultures as well as a few Han Chinese.

Upon arriving Jiulong town, drive to some unique style ancient towers.

Dinner and overnite in Jiulong.

Hotel : Jiulong ( local 4\*, close to local supermarket )



## Unseen Sichuan Part II

# The Enchanting Paradise of Western Sichuan in Autumn .....

---



### **DAY 08 25Oct Sunday JUILONG – WUXUHAI – XINDUQIAO ( B/L/D)**

**Juilong is a relatively untravelled area**, but has some of the best alpine scenery in this region.

This early morning we shall drive to **Wuxuhai Scenic Park** and enjoy this unique alpine lake with Mt. Gongga as its' backdrop. Subject to weather condition, enjoy the blue sky, the primeval forest, the lake , the clear water and the mountains together with the vival autumn colour in this unseen beauty. **Wuxu Lake is an idyllic scenic spot**, flanked to the south by a long range of grey peaks called the 12 Sisters, and with an expanse of paddock leading down to the [as yet] unspoiled water edge. On the opposite side of the lake, the valley continues up to be lost in the snowy peaks of 18-20,000 foot high mountains. It's all very Shangri La here.....

Lunch at a local restaurant before driving back to Xinduqiao, along the way ... have some stops to enjoy photo taking of the landscape which is barren hills dotted with Tibetan fort-like houses, some with their old village watchtowers still remaining. The scenery around here is more wooded and the road follows a fast flowing tributary of the Jiulong River.

We will overnite at **Xinduqiao** again . We will be taken for another photography shooting location to capture the **setting sun**-ray at this paradise of photographers' valley.

Dinner & Overnite in Xinduqiao.

Hotel : Xinduqiao. ( local best hotel)



## Unseen Sichuan Part II

# The Enchanting Paradise of Western Sichuan in Autumn .....



### **DAY 09 26Oct Monday XINDUQIAO – Tagong / Bamei – DANBA ( B/L/D)**

Early morning enjoy the sun rise over Mt Gongga from the hotel.

After breakfast, we will begin an interesting journey to **Danba via Tagong and Bamei** with enroute stop at **Tagong grassland** & the **Tagong Monastery**, optional for any tour members to enter inside the temple on your own ( a small fee is payable at the entrance of the temple)

At about 3700m, the Tagong Grassland is a vast expanse of meadow lying beneath the sacred Yala Mountain, and is landmarked by the famous Tagong Lamasery and the golden tower built to commemorate the living Buddha, Panchan. The green meadow surrounded by snow-capped peaks and dotted with Tibetan herdsmen and tents.

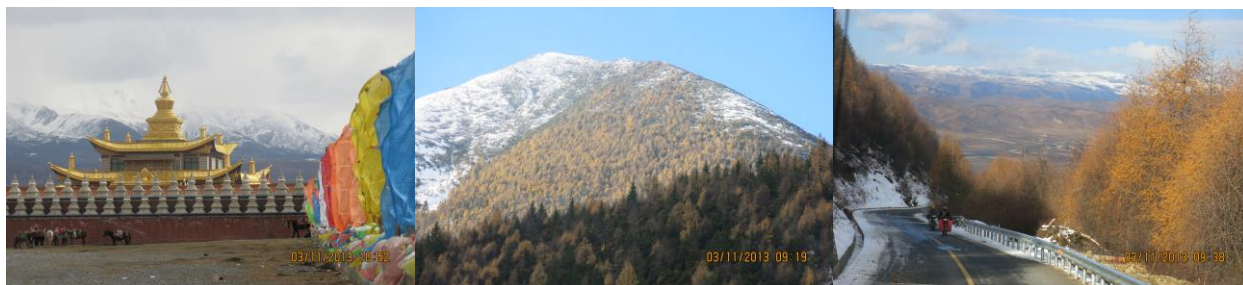
Tagong is a very wild-west kind of Khampa town, with Tagong village, Tagong Monastery (Lhagong temple), Tagong Pagoda Stupa, Yala Snow-capped Mountain, etc

We will spend some time here and enjoy our lunch at this wild-wild west town.

As we moved on along, we will cross the famous holy **mountain of Yala** before arriving Danba.

Enjoy our evening at the **Beauty of Valley – Danba**, a charming mountain valley .

Hotel : 318 Chain hotel, Danba





## Unseen Sichuan Part II

# The Enchanting Paradise of Western Sichuan in Autumn .....



**Danba** lies in a valley 350km west of Chengdu along the east border of Ganzi, halfway between Kangding and Ma'erkang from south to north. Danba's landscape varies vertically from the high-altitude snow-capped mountains to the low-altitude grasslands and valleys. The population is principally composed of ethnic Tibetans.

Rated as the 'Most beautiful Village in China' by Chinese National Geographic in 2005.

Recognized as "**the Kingdom of Watchtowers**" and "**Beauty Valley**", Danba is well-known for the spectacular watchtower groups, the representative Tibetan villages and the pretty Tibetan ladies.

Of all the Danba villages, each with their own special charm. **Jiaju** (甲居), 7km northwest of Danba, stands out as probably the most picturesque. About 150 families live in the solid stone homes with colorful painted woodwork scattered across the hilltops. Tourist money has fixed up this community, but the setting is undeniably gorgeous.

The best place to see stone Qiang watchtower is at **Suopo** (梭坡), about 5km east of town.

Another village is **Zhonglu**. Road leading to Suopo & Zhonglu can only be accessible by smaller vehicle like local car or "mianbaoche". In this trip, we shall visit & enjoy a local meal at Jiaju Village and Suopo from the View Point and if time permit, a photo-stop view of Zhonglu.

### **The 2015 Danba Gyarong Folk & Beauty Festival**

In Danba, the girl is very pretty and every 3 years, holds a Folk & Beauty Festival.

It shows the long history and culture of Tibetan nationality in Danba and also presents its' peculiar natural beauty through out this festival, normally of 3 days. The 2015 Danba Gyarong Folk & Beauty Festival is scheduled from 25Oct – 30Oct 2015. And if we are lucky, this tour will be able to cover an attendance to one of their events.



## Unseen Sichuan Part II

# The Enchanting Paradise of Western Sichuan in Autumn .....

---



### **DAY 10 27 Oct Tuesday DANBA – Danba Gyarong Folk & Beauty Festival\*\*- MA'ERKANG ( B/L/D )**

Wake up early in the morning to enjoy the village of Jiaju.

Enjoy the Danba Gyarong Folk & Beauty Festival \*\* ( subject to local schedule of the Festival )

Visit the Suopo Tibetan Village from the view point .

Late afternoon , depart this charming village of Danba for Ma'erkang \* ( subject to the final schedule of the Folk & Beauty Festival, if necessary, perhaps we might stay 2 nights in Danba to witness this festival)

Hotel : Ma'erkang. ( local 4\* )

### **DAY 11 28 Oct Wednesday MA'ERKANG – Bipeng Valley - MIYALUO (B/L/D)**

Today, we shall drive along the **scenic road from Ma'erkang to Miyaluo** .

You will be able to enjoy great view of this journey of colourful autumn leaves. Enroute for photography stops wherever is possible.

This late morning, we will visit the **Bipeng Valley**, renowned as a small Jiuzhai Valley, boasts a picturesque **view of Siguaniang Snow Mountain**, lakes and primitive forests. We will have to Q-up for the sightseeing tram to take us into the scenic area. Inside the scenic area, at your optional, you may take a cable car to view the whole valley.

Continue the scenic journey to Miyaluo, crossing the 4180m height Mount Zegu.

Overnite in Miyaluo. ( best local hotel available )



## Unseen Sichuan Part II

# The Enchanting Paradise of Western Sichuan in Autumn .....

---



### **DAY 12 29Oct Thursday MIYALUO – Scenic Area & Village – GUERGOU ( Hot Spring ) ) B/L/D)**Miyaluo

**Scenic Area** in Tibetan language means an amusing valley. The area is spread over 3690 sq km and is decorated with flowing waterfalls, bubbling hot springs, snow covered mountains, birch trees and maple trees. All of these combine together to create a very beautiful scenery which cannot be matched by anything else. It is regarded to be one of the most popular locations for appreciating the beauty of red maple leaves. In fact, it is the most spectacular and the largest maple scenic areas in China.

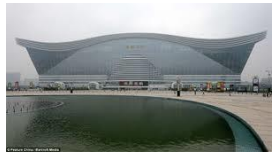
This morning, we will spend our whole morning photographing this amazing area and thereafter a short visit to the village.

Drive **to GUERGOU Hot Spring** to overnite. Optional – enjoy the hot spring before dinner.

Hotel : Guergou Hot Spring

### **DAY 13 30Oct Friday GUERGOU – CHENGDU Airport (B/L/D) DAY 14 31Oct Saturday Arriving KLIA 2**

**After** a late breakfast, drive **to Chengdu** ( 6 hous ).If we are early, we shall visit the **Chengdu New**



**Century Global Mall,** world largest stand-alone building.

After dinner, transfer to the airport for our **departure flight @2355.**

### **DAY 14 31 Oct Saturday ARRIVAL KLIA 2 on 31Oct eta 0445**

*All pictures taken are from the Pictures Library, as such, the actual scenery are subjected to local Conditions & Weather at the point of our visit. Itinerary may be subjected to change according to the local conditions at the point of visit.*

## Unseen Sichuan Part II

# The Enchanting Paradise of Western Sichuan in Autumn .....

---

### Flight Details : Air Asia X Flight

18Oct 2015 (Sunday ) D7 320 KUL – CTU 0915 1340

30Oct 2015 (Friday ) D7 327 CTU – KUL 2355 0445 ( arriving 31Oct Saturday 4.45am)

### Tour Fare : in MYR per person ( Min 16 paxs )

I) Ground arrangement Twin-sharing	5,990.00
II) Air Ticket on Air Asia estimated ( <b>subject to change</b> )	1,500.00
	-----
	7,490.00

### Additional Costing:

III) China Visa Single Entry	126.00
IV) Travel Insurance ( 14 days )	78.00
V) Single Supp ( additional payable )	1,800.00

### Ground Arrangement inclusive

- i) Transportation : 12 – 14 paxs ( 19-21 seater Toyota Coaster Mini Coach )  
16 – 20 paxs ( 30 seater coach )
- ii) Local English speaking Guide
- iii) Entrance fee ticket to Mugecuo Lake with sightseeing bus, Ganden Thubchen Choekhorling Monastery, Yading Natural Reserve with sightseeing bus ( excluded horse riding fee), Wuxuhai, Jiaju Tibetan Village & Bipeng Valley.
- iv) 1 no. 500ml bottle drinking water per day
- v) Daily hotel breakfast, 12 lunches( included 1 packed lunch ) & 13 dinners as per itinerary
- vi) Hotel accommodation at the hotel mentioned or similar.
- vii) Tippings to local guide and driver. ( excluded any portorage fees if any)

The Tour fare is based on the USD exchange rate of 3.4 and may be adjusted accordingly.

### **Booking**

Email : [laura@elsoltravel.com](mailto:laura@elsoltravel.com)

Call : 03 – 7984 4560

*Enriching your life through travelling ..... with a difference with*

**El Sol Travel**



## **Some relevant info:**

1) MAP – not-to-scale



2) **Long Distance & high altitude & the weather**

Some precautions are necessary in consideration of the altitude – there is a risk of altitude sickness, and additionally, due to the significant diurnal temperature variation and strong UV radiation, both thermal clothing and sunscreen are essential.

**Note:** Long driving between points of attraction is necessary and may be delayed due to road and other local conditions. We may require to endure non-stop coach journeys of anything between 4 to 6 hours but the silver lining is we will be rewarded with great sights and sceneries along the way. Please do not worry too much about the “altitude sickness” as the long overland tour may give us sufficient time to be acclimatized and at the same time, it is advisable to seek your regular GP or Pharmacy for some high altitude medication weeks before the trip as most medications are supposed to be taken 3 days before the trip and to be continuously to be taken through - out the trip until the last 3 days of the trip.

### **AVERAGE Altitude of places visiting:**

**CHENGDU ( 700m ) –KANDING(2560m)/YAIJING – LITANG(4014m) / DAOCHENG(3760m)  
/YADING(4000m )/RIWA( 2600m)/XINDUQIAO(3300m)/JIULONG(3210m)/XINDUQIAO –  
TAGONG(3700m) – DANBA (1893m)/MA’EKANG(2621m)/MIYALUO(2700m)/GUERGOU(~2000m)-  
CHENGDU**

### **Average weather (subj to change )**

Lowland ( less than 3000m) : 10 C – 18 C

Highland ( above 3000m ) : 7 C - 15 C