



Shangri-la ON the sea



## Impression of **Xiapu** with a bite of Hakka Culture in Taxia Village & World UNESCO Heritage site of Tulou ( Earthen Cluster ) of Fujian

**8 days / 7 nights**

10Dec – 17 Dec 2015



If you are fascinated with nature and folk photography, being committed to capturing the perfect balance of light and shade, **Xiapu fishing villages** ought to be your next destination, which is simple, humble but a real paradise for photographers, and is bound to bring you a completely new visual impression. Even for a normal traveler, Xiapu offers a **different kind travelling – out of the world.**

Located in the northeastern Fujian Province and approximately 400 km from [Xiamen](#), with the coast line (of East China Sea) stretching for 404 km, Xiapu boasts China's most beautiful mudflats, with its people earning a living on fishing for thousands of years. The marine life, bamboo poles, seaweed harvest, fishing nets, fishing boats and dotting fishermen blend into the mudflats as the sun rises and sets, creating bright-colored graphic pictures and a dreamlike world of light and shadow. **Xiapu ranks the first place on the list of "Top 10 Paradise for Photographer"** .

With a bike of Hakka Culture in Taxia Village & World UNESCO Heritage site of Tulou of Fujian, making this Adventurous photography tour a complete one for both keen photographers and travellers.



**Day 1 (10Dec ): Arrive at Xiamen (厦门) – Transfer to Shuyang Town - Tianloukeng Tulou (田螺坑生土楼群) -Taxia Village (MOB,L/D)**

**MH KUL XMN ETD 0940 ETA 1350**



- Pickup from [Xiamen Gaoqi International Airport](#), meet up with your guide .
- Take a 3-hour scenic drive to [Tianluokeng Hakka Cluster \(田螺坑土楼群\)](#), located in Shangban Village, Shuyang Town, take an overview at the top of the mountain (view platform) with a great vantage point looking down at this Tianluokeng, just nice for the setting sun view . The castle, composed primarily of four round houses plus one rectangular earthen house, which is named 4 dishes and 1 soup. It is one of the most magnificent and well- preserved Hakka houses in the area.
- Roaming in Tianluokeng Hakka Cluster to see their daily lives.  
Have a traditional Hakka Dinner at Tianluokeng Hakka house. .
- After dinner, drive to the water town of Taxia village (塔下村). Built in 1426 in Ming Dynasty by Zhang Family, Taxia is an exquisite Hakka village located in a tranquil valley in Shuyang Town.
- Along the bank of a clear brook that flows through the entire village, there are more than 20 earth buildings, each of different shapes.
- Check into hotel and overnight in Nanjing , a 4\* hotel

**Day 2 (11 Dec): – Yuchanglou (裕昌楼) – Chenggilou - Huaiyuanlou (怀远楼) Yongding ( Hongkeng Tulou) – Zhangzhou (漳州) (B/L/D)**



- After breakfast, enjoy a walking tour along the river bank of this water town of Taxia.
- Today we will visit **Yuchanglou (裕昌楼)**, a five-storey tulou built in 1308 Yuan dynasty by the Liu family clan and is one of the oldest existing tulou. Yuchanglou has been nicknamed the “zigzag building” (“东倒西歪楼”) for its tilted pillars that zigzags left and right. It was built that way due to an error measuring the building materials. In spite of this apparent infirmity, this tall tulou withstood 700 years of natural elements and social turmoil.
- 20 minutes coach transfer to **Gaotou Village(高头村)**, visit **Chengqilou(承启楼)**, the largest grandest circular building composed by 4 circular buildings.
- Next, visit **Huaiyuanlou (怀远楼)**, a four-story round building constructed between 1905 and 1909. The foundation of the wall was rammed from large cobblestones from the river and a mixture of lime, clay and sand. The surface of wall remains clean and smooth in spite of the pass of time. This is the most exquisite designed and well-preserved tulou to date.
- Have lunch at a local Hakka restaurant.
- 1. 30 minutes driving to **Hongkeng Earthen Building Tulou** at **Yongding Hakka Cultural Village(永定土楼群)**. After a day of visiting this World UNESCO Heritage site of Tulous, we will proceed to **Zhangzhou (漳州)** to over-night. Located in southern Fujian, **Zhangzhou** is a rich city with a coastline of 680 kilometers (423 miles) and it is also a town of flower and tropical fruit.

Overnite in Zhangzhou, 3\* hotel

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### Day 3 (12 Dec): Zhangzhou (漳州) – Xiapu (霞浦) – Xiaohao (小皓) (B/L/D)



- After breakfast at hotel and check out, transfer to Zhangzhou train station for our high-speed train to **Xiapu (霞浦)**. The train journey will take around 3hrs.
- Upon arrival at Xiapu, check into hotel. After lunch, we will proceed with our first photo shoot of the day.
- This afternoon, we will be taking pictures of sunset at **Xiaohao (小皓)** beach, one of the most beautiful around this area. During sunset, you can see a lot of fisherman boats scattered around the water with good lighting. .

Overnite in Xiapu – 3 \* hotel

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**Day 4 (13 Dec): Bailu (白鹭) – Dongandao (东安岛) – Xishan (西山) – Dongbi (东壁)**  
**(B/L/D)**

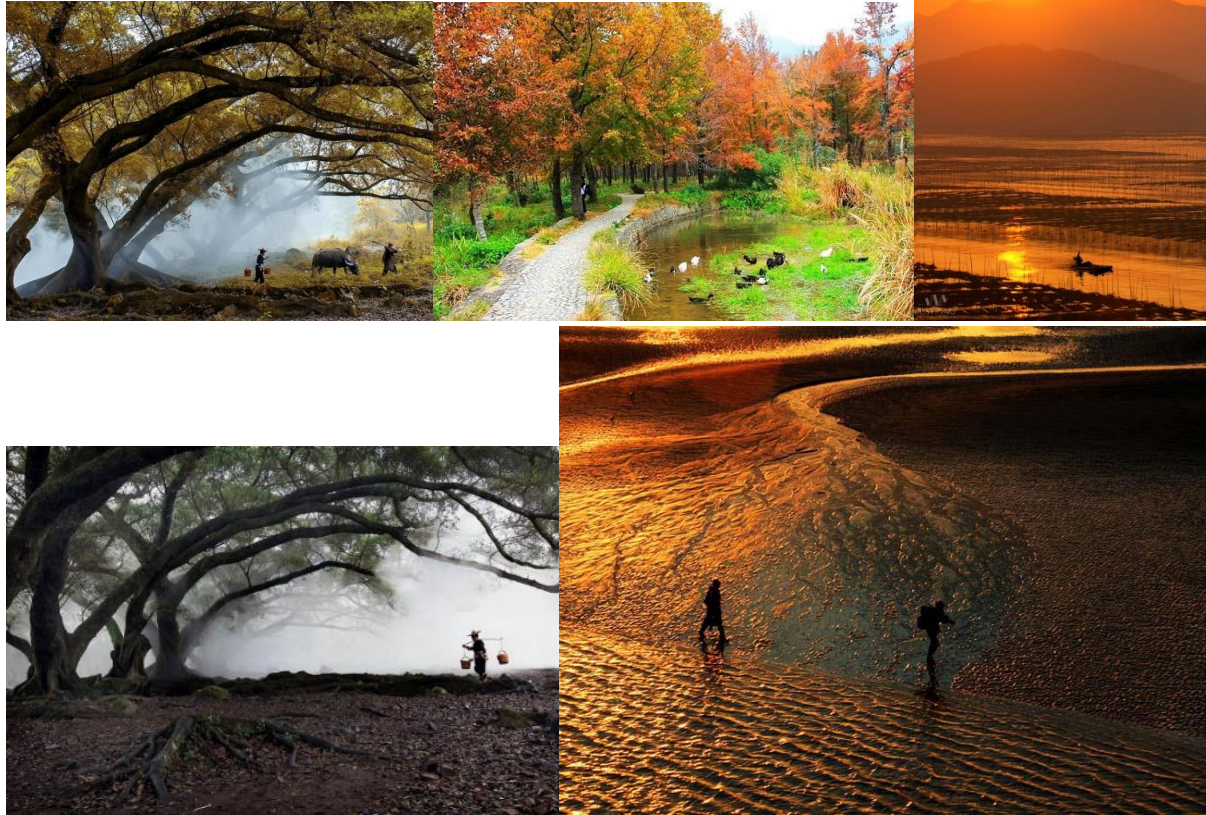


- Rise early today for an exciting day of photoshooting sessions at various locations.
- Very early morning, travel to **Bailu (白鹭)** where we get to witness the beauty of sunrise rising from **Mantoushan (馒头山)**. Thousand rows of fishing bamboo are planted on the low lying beach as well. The perfect sight for beautiful photo-takings.
- After sunrise, venture out on a boat to **Dongandao (东安岛)** to capture the floating fishing village. This fishing village has a name “海上威尼斯”, literally meaning “Venice on the Sea” – there are hundreds of houses built on the sea, a very impressive sight which will take your breath away and make sure you will snap non-stop.
- After lunch, proceed to **Xishan (西山)** as we await the fishermen returning from their fishing trip. This is also a very good place for sunset. But we will be going to **Dongbi (东壁)** right after Xishan for one of the best sunset view over the sea.

Overnite in Xiapu 3\* Hotel



Day 5 (14 Dec): Huazhu (花竹) – Yangjiaxi (杨家溪) + Yangji Stream Scenic Spot – Yantian (盐田) – Huyuaou (浒屿澳) (B/L/D)



- Early morning, travel to **Huazhu (花竹)** for the beautiful sunrise where under the sun rays, different colours forms in the surrounding environment, forming an impressive sight.
- After Huazhu, transfer to **Yangjiaxi (杨家溪)** for some ancient banyan tree photo-taking in the picturesque old banyan tree forest. Some of the banyan tree has more than 800 years of history. Under the shine of sunrays penetrating through the forest, the whole scenery seems to be like an oil painting.
- Also visit **Yangjia Stream Scenic Spot for the beautiful maple leaves in autumn colour**..When autumn arrives, this scenic spot is blanketed by fiery red leaves.
- Break for lunch before continuing in the afternoon.
- After lunch, it is time to visit **Yantian (盐田)** where you can interact with the locals, known as “连家船民” (“Lian Family Fleet Culture”). They are the boat people of Yantian, who for generations, have been dependent on fishing and clam picking as their livelihood. They live in small run-down (sometimes broken) boat and have to lead a wandering life on the sea, weathering all kinds of harsh conditions on the sea, just to be able to make ends meet. They have also been labelled as “sea gypsies” . .
- We end our third day of Xiapu photography by travelling to **Huyuaou (浒屿澳)** for the captivating sunset.

Overnite in Xiapu 3\* Hotel



Day 6 (15 Dec): Beidou (北兜) – Shajiang (沙江) – Qidou (七都) (B/L/D)



- On this fourth day of photography, we travel to **Beidou (北兜)** for sunrise.
- Next, go to **Shajiang (沙江)**, the infamous site where we can see hundreds and thousands of bamboo sticking out from the mudflat and also the S-shaped bay as well as fishing boats coming in and out of the bay. The water here is isolated and calm and simply has too many subjects for photography.
- After lunch, visit **Qidou (七都)** shoal to see fishermen working hard under the sun. The high tide and low tide in Qidou is very special as 'lines' are form. These lines shift as the tides comes in and out and makes it a very unique place for photo-taking.

Overnite in Xiapu 3\* Hotel



### Day 7 (16 Dec): Beiqi (北岐) – Xiamen (厦门) (B/L/D)



Today is our last day in Xiapu.

- Early morning around 6am, reach **Beiqi (北岐)** shoal for sunrise photo-taking. Beiqi is a small fishing village by the sea and is the ground for seaweed harvesting. This is considered the number one shooting point and a must-visit for all shutter bugs. In Beiqi we can see large crowd of fisherman working. As the sun slowly make its way up from the sea, the sea seems to be covered with a layer of gold. Against the backdrop of seaweed hanging at bamboo pole, it is a scene not to be missed.
- Back to Hotel to check out : Lunch before boarding the Fast Train to Xiamen.
- Transfer to Xiapu train station for our high-speed train to **Xiamen (厦门)**. The train journey will take around 2.5hrs.

On arrival at Xiamen train station, transfer to **Haiwan Park** , you can watch the sun slowly setting down at the far end of the glittering sea. You can also see local women picking oysters on the beach. Sitting on the waterfront ladder or sprawling out on lawns, it is blissful while enjoying the sea breeze, listening to the music from the bars behind, or watching the ships sailing across the sea under the setting sun.

Enjoy our dinner at a local restaurant in the park. Thereafter, walk along the Avenue of the Stars and the Music Fountain .Transfer to hotel. Overnite in Xiamen , a downtown 3\* Hotel

### Day 8 (17 Dec): Departure Xiamen MH ETD 1510 ETA KUL 1945 (B/MOB)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Free time till transfer to the airport (12 noon) for your flight back home.

*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 local conditions at the point of visit.*

**Flights Details:** 10Dec MH 390 KULXMN 0940 1350  
17Dec MH 391 XMN KUL 1510 1945

## COSTING ( min. 10 pax to go )

- a) **Ground Arrangement**
- |                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Twin-sharing per person  | @MYR 2,980.00 |
| Single Suppl @MYR 600.00 |               |
| Tipping                  | @MYR 200.00   |
- b) **Econ class air ticket Fare + taxes + surcharges**
- |                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| MAS (i) Normal V Class Fare | @MYR 1,550.00* |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
- \*Subject to availability / subject to change -----  
Estimated per person on Twin-sharing = MYR 4,730.00
- c) **VISA to enter China Single Entry @ MYR 126.00**
- d) **Travel Insurance 8 days @MYR 52.00**

- **\*Air ticket cost is subject to change and can only be confirmed on the day of booking.**

## Ground Arrangement Costing

Inclusive

- 1) 7 night (3\*) accommodation as per specified with daily breakfast.
- 2) Ground arrangement / entrance fees / boat ride as per itinerary .
- 3) Lunch & Dinner at local restaurants at a budget of RMB40/meal/person.
- 4) Second Class High-Speed Train tickets – Zhangzhou = Xiapu / Xiapu = Xiamen
- 5) English Speaking local Tour Guide service
- 6) 01 Bottle of Mineral Water per person per day

### NOTE :

For photography purpose, if you need “model “ – farmer / animal / fisherman you might have to pay them a fee in CASH directly there . Estimated @RMB200 .

The above rate may be subjected to change , based on the current exchange rate of RMB0.58.

**Booking : [laura@elsoltravel.com](mailto:laura@elsoltravel.com)**



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