

# THE SCENIC SPOTS AND ATTRACTIONS **OF YUNNAN**

Compiled

by Wang Yi

Photographed by Yang Chunzhou

## YUNNAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

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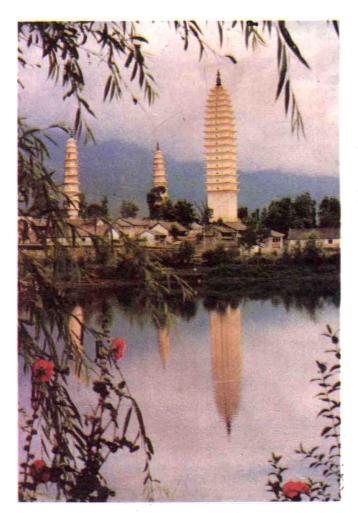
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Grand View Tower Park (Kunming) Photographed by Wang Yi

The Temple of Three Pagodas (Dali) Photographed by Yang Chunzhou



A Picturesque Spot on the Southern Frontier (Xishuangbanna) Photographed by Yang Chunzhou

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#### Foreword

This book provides the readers the most comprehensive information on Yunnan. Detailed coverage has been extended to three major scenic areas: Kunming, Dali, and Xishuangbanna.

Yunnan has pleasant climate and enchanting scenery. It is praised as "The Kingdom of Animals and Plants." It is a land of animal species and valuable plants.

On Yunnan Plateau, the soft wind blows over the land of red soil, the floating clouds sail in the blue sky, the flowers vie for their beauty in the gardens, the lovely birds chirp in the forests, the flowing streams give out a sweet tune of music, the boats sail on the Dian chi Lake. All these stir my imagination. All these inspire me to write this book.

Yunnan is a province with a long history. The tooth fossils unearthed in the province could push back the time of Asian prehistoric man to 2.5 million years ago. Bronze wares of the seventh century B.C. unearthed in the province have unique styles and suggest a relationship with orthodox Chinese culture.

There are 25 minority nationalites in Yunnan. Their unique customs, habits and social codes present a colourful and living history of social development. The traditional music, dance, handicrafts and architecture of the nationalities are colourful and charming.

Some poems and legends reflect the life of the nationalities; their ideas and emotions.

When I write this book, I have a sincere desire in my heart: to build a bridge-bridge of friendship—to promote the friendship between the Chinese people and the people of other countries.

In this book the readers will have the opportunity to appreciate the photographs taken by Professor Yang Chunzhou, a famous educator and photographer.

I owe my thanks to Professor Wang Sentang of Yunnan University, Professor Wang Kun of Yunnan Institute for Nationalities, Professor Liu Qing of Yunnan Normal University, Mr. Chen Ruhou. senior editor of Yunnan People's Publishing House. They carefully read and revised my manuscripts.

I extend my thanks to Mrs. J. Waller, Mr. Len Richman. They read the manuscripts and each wrote an introduction for this book.

Mrs. P.Horne, an educator, helped me a lot in the course of writing this book. She put forward many valuable suggestions.

Mr. Gerald R. Irvine is very busy with his work at Yunnan Normal University. In spare time, he carefully read and revised my manuscripts.

The efforts made by my wife Bai Xiulian should be mentioned. While I was writing this book, she helped me alot.

We sincerely hope that our readers will give opinions and suggestions about this book.

Wang Yi Yunnan Institute of Technology Summer, 1992. Kunming

#### Introduction

It is both a pleasure and an honour to be asked to write an introduction to Professor Wang Yi's guide to Yunnan. This is a beautiful and fascinating province, which many visitors are only just beginning to appreciate. There is much to see both geographically and historically, and Professor Wang has covered both aspects. He describes the most famous scenic spots and architectural attractions of the region, giving helpful information about how to reach there, as well as historical notes and quotations from the writings of earlier scholars. But in addition he explains many of the legends and traditions of the 24 different nationalities who live in different areas of the province.

It is an informative and scholarly work, which at the same time being interesting and enjoyable. The magnificent photographs add further pleasure. This valuable introduction will inspire visitors to want to learn more about the "Land Beyond The Clouds" and its wonderful variety of nationalities and scenery.

J. Waller

#### Introduction

Wang Yi's book is divided into three sections, admirably covering Kunming, Dali and Xishangbanna, and the nationalities of many minority groups that inhabit Yunnan Province. A colourful, detailed tapestry ranging far and wide, I saw and felt the vivid beautiful images minutely described, the dramatic natural wonders, the complex rituals, festivals and customs, and enjoyed meeting the varied people who make up this paradoxical country. It is a labour of love, painstakingly put together by a man who deeply "feels" where he lives, knowing in his heart and spirit, the abiding verities of this particular piece of soil.

One is able to discover a part of China that is rarely glimpsed in foreign publications. In this, I am fortunate, because it is here that I have been working and living. Hence, it increased my appreciation and understanding.

Whether the reader is an armchair traveller, or the more active type, the book offers a delectable banquet of many choices to explore. I believe it also has the quality of contributing to significant historical knowledge.

I encourage the reader to find a quiet place, and journey slowly and thoughtfully through this book. The effort will be amply rewarded.

Len Richman Kunming, Yunnan China November 27, 1990

### A letter from P.Horne

Professor Wang,

I am interested in the progress of your book. It seemed to offer a lot of interesting information for tourists who come to Yunnan, particularly the legends of years gone by. You have put much thought, care and efforts into writing it and I hope you will soon be rewarded by having it published.

P. Horne

# Some Poems Depicting the Enchanting Scenes and Attractions of Yunnan

#### A Beautiful Carpet Lies on the Ground

The flowers bloom all year round.

A beautiful carpet lies on the ground.

The scenes look even more beautiful in spring.

On earth the breeze kisses everything.

#### Sleeping Beauty, Boats and Scabirds

By the Dian-chi Lake the Sleeping Beauty lies. Calmly, calmly she sleeps beneath the sky. Several seabirds flutter wings and fly high. Two or three boats on the lake glide by.

#### The Nature Bestowed on the Earth a New Scene

The clouds gently, gently sail in the blue sky.
Several boats calmly, calmly near the bank lie.
The willows sway in the soft wind.
The nature bestowed on the earth a new scene!

#### Spring and Scagulls

In bright April the spring comes in.
The wind blows and the earth becomes green.
The willows in the park dance in the wind.
The seagulls are reluctant to leave Kunming.

#### Bell Tower in the Golden Temple

The trees stand against the blue sky.

In sunlight the tower appears bright.

The sound of the bell spreads far and wide.

The echos can be clearly heard at night.

#### Festival and Lanterns

The lanterns are hung up on trees by roadside.
They shine with a dazzling light at night.
All people celebrate the Spring Festival with joy.
Everyone's heart is full of pleasure and delight.

#### Dragon Gate, Dian chi Lake

On the precipitous cliff stands the Dragon Gate. By the Peacock Mountain lies the Dian-chi Lake. The red-beak seagulls fly about in the blue sky. On the lake the little boats gently glide.

#### Sunrise

The peaks are shrouded in the mist of Fall.

From the horizon is rising the Red Ball.

The villages awake in the morning glow.

Shouldering spades, to the fields the peasants go.

#### Red-beak Seagulls

The spring breeze has turned the world green.

Here and there lovely flowers can be seen.

In Dian-chi Lake the seagulls are gracefully swimming.

They are unwilling to leave the lovely city Kunming.

#### The Spring Has Set in

In April comes the spring.
The Nature bestows on the world a beautiful scene.
The flowers are vying for their beauty,
in red, pink, white, yellow, and green.
In forests the birds are chirpping.
In parks, the boys' songs waft with the wind.

#### A Scene in the Morning

The rising sun is removing the shadows of the flowers. The spring breeze is unfolding the buds of the willows.

#### **Boats and Bell Rings**

The stars twinkle in the blue sky.

On Dian-chi Lake the boats calmly lie.

The bell rings come from the Western Hills.

They break the mid-night's calm and still.

#### The Kites in the Blue Sky

The earth bathes in the sunlight.

The lovely garden seems to be dazzlingly bright.

The nice lads fly their kites high.

"Butterflies" and "Dragons" swing in the blue sky.

#### The Charming Scene of Dian-chi Lake

The water in Dian—chi Lake is limpid and the mountains afar are green. A small boat gently, gently sails towards the Temple Huating. In the lake the seagulls flutter wings and utter cry.

Several egrets in blue sky freely, freely fly high.

#### Watching "Dadi Waterfall"

The soft wind blows and the white clouds float in Fall.
The tourist go to Stone Forest and admire Dadi Waterfall.
The waterfall runs down from sky like a silver chain.
The tourists' clothes get wet in splashing rain.

#### Admiring Scenes from Dragon Gate

In Dian—chi Lake one can see a vast expanse of water.

At Autumn Mid—night the moon shines even brighter.

The soft breeze blows and the tourist seems to be tipsy.

Leaning on the rail at Dragon Gate, one admires the beautiful scenery.

#### A Scene in Grand View Tower Park

Every thing seems to be standing still in the park "Grand View Tower." In soft moonlight the shadows of the trees become longer.

The little boat gently moves forward with the moon in water.

In air floats the fragrance of the lotus flowers.

#### Bamboos and Orchids

With seasons the flowers and grass run riot and feast man's eyes.

Losing fragrance, with time they wither and die.

In mountains grow bamboos and orchids under every season's weather.

They boldly stand in spring, summer, autumn and winter.