

Specialists in Customised Group Travel

Opulent
JOURNEYS

In the Footsteps of the Plant Hunters

18 Day Tour to Yunnan, China with Angus Stewart

24 May – 10 June 2017







About Your Tour

For those who are looking for a tour that combines ecotourism with experiencing unique local cultures and their gardens, this one will definitely fit the bill. Our tour will be following in the footsteps of a host of famous English plant collectors who, in the late 19th and early 20th century, visited Yunnan province in Southwest China. George Forrest, Kingdon Ward, Delavay and Joseph Rock were among the many who found it difficult to stay away from these parts. They collected a bounty of roots, seeds and cuttings of hundreds of plants which went onto become mainstays of English and indeed worldwide gardens.

Azaleas, rhododendrons, magnolias, camellias, oaks, beeches, dozens of conifer species, orchids, primulas, roses, hydrangeas and gentians are just some of the thousands of species of flowers that grow in the wild on the mountains and meadows of Yunnan. It is always an extraordinary thrill to see the spectacular plants we grow in our gardens flowering and thriving in their natural habitat. That thrill is even greater when those plants are set against a backdrop of incredible mountain scenery amongst communities that host a diversity of ethnic cultures.

The biodiversity of Yunnan province is incredible. Even though Yunnan province is only about 4% of China's total area, it is home to over 50% of its plant and animal species, including many of the rarest and most spectacular. It is regarded as one of the world's great biodiversity hotspots by scientists and also features great geographical diversity as well and shares a border with the country of Myanmar.

Yunnan is one of the most isolated parts of China, and is also one of the most scenic. The mountains that form the eastern end of the Himalayan plateau are awe inspiring as well as botanically breathtaking. Yunnan is home to 25 Chinese minority nationalities, each with their own culture, customs and costumes. Our tour sets aside time to experience the cultural diversity as well as the natural wonders of this unique region.

WHO SHOULD COME

As we have already said, this is a tour with a horticultural or botanical bias but it has much else beside. You will need to be a little adventurous, able to adapt to the variety of accommodation and to be prepared to go to high altitude (around 4000 metres). There is no trekking or camping, but there will be some day walks. So while you don't need to be super fit, you will get the most out of this trip if you can walk happily for a few hours. People who can't manage this will still be able to participate in most activities on this tour.





About Your Tour Leader – Angus Stewart



Angus Stewart is a professional horticulturist and plantsman who has made a career from breeding new plant varieties and travelling the world seeking out new plants in their wild habitats. He has turned his lifetime of horticultural experiences to good use to lead tours to famous wildflower regions as well as some of the great gardens of the world. Angus is perhaps best known for his work as a gardening presenter on the ABC, both with Gardening Australia for the last 11 years, and on ABC 702 radio station in Sydney where he has been answering gardening talkback questions for around 25 years.

Angus debuted on the ABC in 1991 as a regular guest on the John Doyle (aka Rampaging Roy Slaven) afternoon program. Dubbed "Doctor of the Dirt, Surgeon of the Soil, Professor of the Paddock", Angus continued on this program for five years before joining a range of other presenters and becoming a regular on the Saturday morning Weekend Program with Simon Marnie.

Angus has written for numerous gardening magazines over the years and is a regular with Gardening Australia magazine at present. He has also written 5 books with an emphasis on Australian plants and these include the award winning Creating an Australian Garden as well as his current co-authored book The Australian Native Garden.

Angus is a very experienced tour leader who has taken numerous tours in Australia and overseas and loves to spend time with fellow passengers, getting to know them and sharing his passion for the plants of the world. He has always had a passion for seeking out wildflowers in their natural habitat and has led a number of tours into wild areas to seek out rare and unusual plants. He is looking forward to showing you the treasures of one of the world's great floral kingdoms in Yunnan.





Kunming | Dali | Lijiang | Shangri-La | Deqin

Day 1 Wed 24 May

Australia-Singapore

Fly from your capital city to Singapore.

Day 2 Thu 25 May

Singapore-Kunming

Fly to Kunming. On arrival, you will be met by our local guide and transferred to the hotel. Then we will visit **Kunming Botanical Garden** before our **welcome dinner** tonight. (Dinner)

Day 3 Fri 26 May

Kunming-Dali

Today we fly to Dali. After check in, we will visit **Chongshen Monastery** with the three tall pagodas for which Dali is famous. There are extensive Chinese gardens to explore around the pagodas. We will also take a leisurely walking tour in **Dali Old Town** in the evening. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)

Day 4 Sat 27 May

Dali

Cangshan Mountain is one of the richest botanical locations on earth and was a favourite location for 19th century plant hunters, particularly for azaleas and rhododendrons which should be in peak flower. Today we will enjoy a full day **scenic and botanic tour** with chairlift on **Cangshan Mountain**. Enjoy a picnic lunch today. (Breakfast/Lunch)

Day 5 Sun 28 May

Dali

Today we will take a different chairlift route and enjoy a half day scenic **walking tour in Cangshan Mountain**. After a picnic lunch, we will travel to a local **tea plantation** to learn about the tea plant *Camellia sinensis* which is native to Yunnan Province. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)

Day 6 Mon 29 May

Dali-Lijiang

Today we say Zaijian to Dali and drive by coach along the scenic road to Lijiang. Along the way we will visit the **Ethnic Bai village** and take stops for **wild flowers**. (Breakfast/Lunch)

Day 7 Tue 30 May

Lijiang

After breakfast, we leave our hotel to visit the **Yuhu Village**. Situated at the foot of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, Yuhu Village is the last Naxi minority village of the valley. We will call at the **house** (which is now a museum) of renowned plant hunter **Joseph Rock**, who lived here for many years collecting plants and studying the Naxi people. We will also explore the flora (including roses, rhododendrons, pieris and primulas) at the base of the famous **Jade Dragon Snow Mountain**. This magnificent mountain is the southernmost in the Northern Hemisphere that is snow-capped year round. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)

Day 8 Wed 31 May

Lijiang

Today we will visit the **Black Dragon Pool Park** with its stunning mountain back drop. The pool itself is of the proportions of a lake, complete with bridge, willow-lined causeways, traditional pavilions and ornamental plantings. Then we visit the **Mu's Mansion** with its magnificent Penjing collection (the Chinese equivalent of Bonsai), terraced on the side of Lion Hill. In the afternoon, we will pay a visit to the **Yufeng Lamasery** to see, amongst other things, the 10,000-flower camellia and ancient michelias. (Breakfast)

Day 9 Thu 01 June

Lijiang

Today is at your leisure for shopping and individual exploration. (Breakfast)

Day 10 Fri 02 June

Lijiang-Tiger Leaping Gorge

After breakfast, it's a spectacular drive alongside the Yangtze to the awesome **Tiger Leaping Gorge**. With a drop of 3900 metres it is said to be the world's deepest gorge. Overnight at Tina's Guest House at Travertine Pools Town. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)



Day 11 Sat 03 June Tiger Leaping Gorge-Shangri-La

Today we will visit the breathtaking geological phenomena - **White Water Terrace**. Besides being a beautifully scenic spot, the White Water Terrace is also the birthplace of Dongba culture of the Naxi Minority Group. Later we continue travel to Shangri-La. Along the way we will make numerous **flora stops**. (Breakfast/Lunch)

Day 12 Sun 04 June Shangri-La

Today in Shangri-La we will get used to the high altitude and visit **Sunsanling Monastery**, a large complex of Tibetan Buddhism built in 1679, set beside a beautiful lake, a haven for local water birds that we will explore. In the afternoon, there is a visit to the **Napa Lake** to see yaks grazing amongst the wildflower meadows. (Breakfast)

Day 13 Mon 05 June Shangri-La-Deqin

A long but exciting day's drive by the Upper Yangtze Gorge along the Yunnan-Tibet road with spectacular scenery via Baima Pass to Deqin. The **Baima nature reserve** is the highest reserve in China and an area for alpine medicinal plants and flowers. We pass the reserve on our way to Deqin and stop to **walk amongst the spectacular scenery**. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)

Day 14 Tue 06 June

Deqin

We drive to the base of Kawakarpo Mountain to **Meilungtse Village** and walk to the base of its **glacier** on foot, this is a strenuous experience but it is well worth it to explore the wildflowers and Buddhist culture. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)

Day 15 Wed 07 June

Deqin

Today we will continue to explore the Tibetan Buddhist culture and botanical riches of **Baima Mountain** with a series of short walks visiting a unique local village and small monastery. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)

Day 16 Thu 08 June

Deqin-Shangri-La

After breakfast, we start our return journey to Shangri-La stopping at the craftsmen's village of **Nixi Valley**. (Breakfast/Lunch)

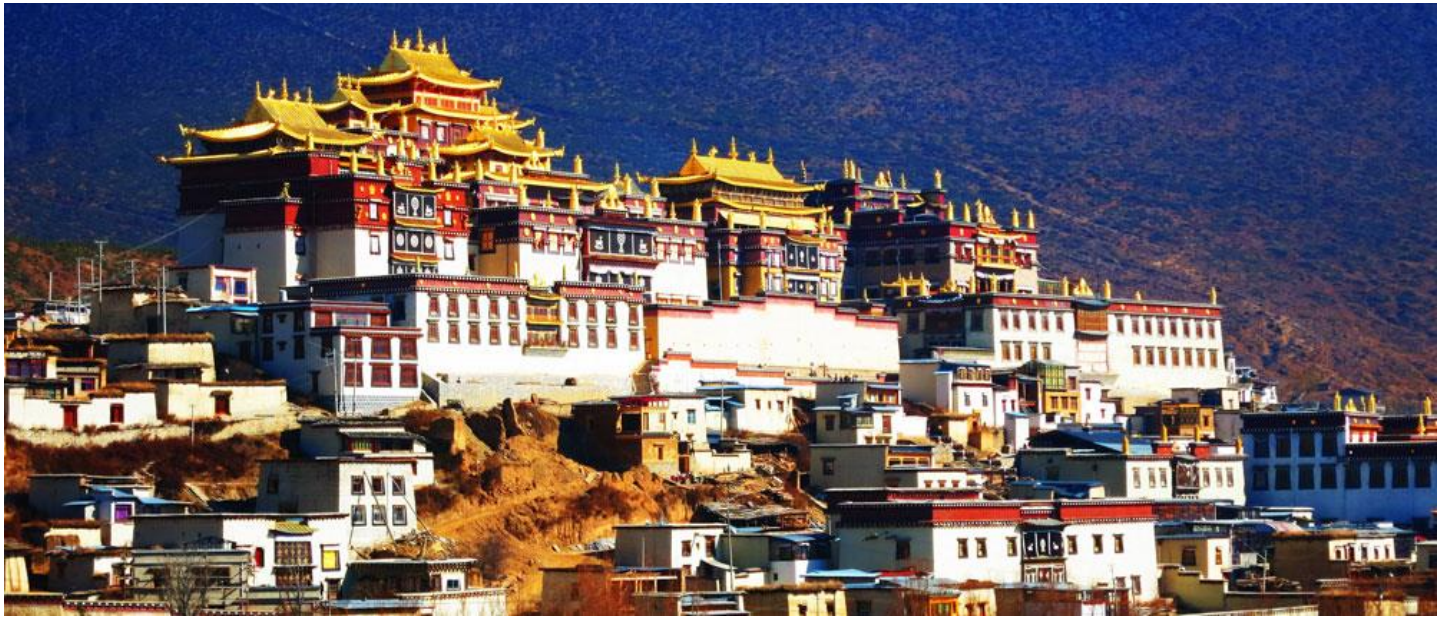
Day 17 Fri 09 June Shangri-La-Kunming-Singapore

This morning we transfer to airport for flight to Kunming. Upon arrival, we will visit the Daoist **Golden Temple** and the famous **Flower and Bird Market**. Later we transfer back to the airport for our Singapore Airlines flight home. (Breakfast/Lunch)

Day 18 Sat 10 June

Arrival in Australia





Price per person twin share	AUD	NZD	USD
Land & Air:	\$7,890	N/A	N/A
Land Only*:	\$6,435	\$6,775	\$4,950
Single Room Supplement:	\$1,790	\$1,885	\$1,400

*Land Only tour starts and ends in Kunming

INCLUSIONS: International flights with Singapore Airlines from East coast capital cities to Kunming, internal flights within China, 16 nights' accommodation in 5 star or boutique hotels, most meals, comprehensive touring, local English Speaking guides in each city, tour manager with the group throughout and Chinese visa fee.

Not Included: Travel insurance, portorage fees, gratuities, personal expenses, anything not mentioned.



Tour Name: *In the Footsteps of the Plant Hunters with Angus Stewart*

24 May - 10 June 2017

First Passenger

Title: Surname (as shown in passport):
 First Name (as shown in passport): Preferred First Name:
 Gender: ☐ MALE / ☐ FEMALE If sharing what would be your room preference? ☐ TWIN / ☐ DOUBLE
 Single supplement? ☐ YES / ☐ NO Do you require us to organise twin-share on your behalf? ☐ YES / ☐ NO
 Are you a smoker? ☐ YES / ☐ NO (Please note that Single Supplement will be payable if we are unable to arrange twin-share for you)
 Do you require us to book your international airfare? ☐ YES / ☐ NO If Yes, please nominate class: ☐ Economy ☐ Business
 Are you a Frequent Flyer Member? Member No: Airline:
 Do you have any dietary or seating requests?
 Do you hold an Australian passport? ☐ YES / ☐ NO If No, please state the nationality:
 Passport Number: Date of issue: / / Date of expiry: / /
 Date of birth: / / Place of issue: Occupation:
 (Passport details are required for all tours travelling outside Australia)

Second Passenger

Title: Surname (as shown in passport):
 First Name (as shown in passport): Preferred First Name:
 Sex: ☐ MALE / ☐ FEMALE If sharing what would be your room preference? ☐ TWIN / ☐ DOUBLE
 Single supplement? ☐ YES / ☐ NO Do you require us to organise twin-share on your behalf? ☐ YES / ☐ NO
 Are you a smoker? ☐ YES / ☐ NO (Please note that Single Supplement will be payable if we are unable to arrange twin-share for you)
 Do you require us to book your international airfare? ☐ YES / ☐ NO If Yes, please nominate class: ☐ Economy ☐ Business
 Are you a Frequent Flyer Member? Member No: Airline:
 Do you have any dietary or seating requests?
 Do you hold an Australian passport? ☐ YES / ☐ NO If No, please state the nationality:
 Passport Number: Date of issue: / / Date of expiry: / /
 Date of birth: / / Place of issue: Occupation:
 (Passport details are required for all tours travelling outside Australia)

Passenger/s Contact Details

Street Address:
 Suburb: State: Postcode:
 Postal Address: State: Postcode:
 Home Tel: Work Tel: Fax:
 Mobile No: E-mail:

Additional Travel

If you require assistance with any add on travel arrangements pre or post tour, such as accommodation, or tours, please either attach relevant details or contact Opulent Journeys.

Travel Insurance

It is in your best interest and compulsory with our office for you to have adequate travel insurance for your trip to cover you for any unforeseen circumstances that may arise before or during the trip. If you would like a quote or further information regarding travel insurance for your trip, please contact our office and we will forward the relevant information to you.

Emergency Contact (Person to contact should there be an emergency while you are overseas)

Complete Name: Relationship:
 Street Address:
 Suburb: State: Postcode:
 Home Tel: Work Tel: Mobile No:

Payment options:

1). Cheque/Money - Enclosed is a cheque / money order made payable to Opulent Journeys, which acts as a deposit for the tour.

2) Credit Card- Visa / MasterCard / American Express

Please call our office with your credit card details -1300 219 885 or complete the information below.

Card No: Expiry Date: / /
Cardholder's name:
Card Holders Signature: Date: / /

(Please note that payments by credit card will be subject to a Merchant Administration Fee as follows:

1.5% for Visa / MasterCard, 3.3% for American Express)

3) Direct Deposit into the Opulent Journeys bank Account.

Bank: Westpac Account Name: Opulent Journeys
Bank BSB: 032 000 Account Number: 902713

Please list the payment description as per the following for Direct Deposits:

Reference: Your surname. This will assist our office in locating your payment when we receive your completed booking form.

DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT

The deposit of \$400.00 per person is accepted as a first instalment of the tour cost and will be used to secure your place on the tour. It will be fully refunded if the arrangements cannot be confirmed or the tour is cancelled. A detailed invoice is sent out to all passengers booked on the tour, approximately two weeks prior to due date of the final payment. Final payment for the tour needs to be received 60 days prior to tour departure.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS

If it is necessary to cancel your booking, cancellations must be received in writing and the following scale of cancellation charges will be applied, per person.

Days of notice prior to departure:	Cancellation Charge
Over 60 days	\$250.00 – Administration Fee
59-30 days	25% of the tour cost
29-11 days	50% of the tour cost
10 days or less	100% of the tour cost

No refund is available for cancellation after commencement of tour or for any service not used.

FORCED CANCELLATION

In the event that, due to failure to reach a minimum number of tour participants (excluding the tour leader), it is necessary to cancel the tour, you will receive a full refund of your deposit. If it is necessary to cancel the tour, we will advise you not less than 60 days prior to the tour departure.

PASSPORT AND VISAS

It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure that they possess the necessary travel documentation for the tour, such as a valid passport and any required visas. In general a passport should be valid at least 6 months beyond the end of your journey and have two clear pages for each country to be visited to allow for entry and exit stamps en-route or for any visas applicable for countries in your journey. At the time of making your booking you will be given information about any visas that may be required for the tour.

PRICES

Tour prices stated on the flyer have been calculated on the basis of exchange rates and tariffs valid at time of print and are subject to change up until the date of departure. Should you decide to cancel your tour on the basis of a change of price, then normal cancellation charges will apply.

OPULENT JOURNEYS

Suite 406, 147 King Street, Sydney NSW 2000

GPO BOX 4389, Sydney NSW 2001

Phone: (02) 9221 0016 / 1300 219 885 Fax: (02) 9221 0333

E-mail: enquiries@opulentjourneys.com.au

Visit our website: www.opulentjourneys.com.au

RESPONSIBILITY

OPULENT JOURNEYS Pty Ltd trading as Opulent Journeys and/or its associated Companies or Agents, act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters of transportation, tour operation and other services.

The company itself is not a carrier or hotelier, nor do we own aircraft, hotels or coaches. We exercise every care in the selection of reputable airlines, coach operator, hotels and other suppliers or the various travel services which are used in the tour. Opulent Journeys Pty Ltd and/or its associated Companies or Agents assume no responsibility for loss, injury, accident, delay or damage or irregularity that may be caused to person or property, however caused or arising before commencement and/or during any tour under its management, sponsorship, procurement or otherwise. It is the responsibility of the passenger to make sure he/she is in possession of the proper visas and other travel documents and those they are in compliance with current government and transportation companies' regulations. The right is reserved to modify the itinerary in any way considered necessary or desirable, or to change any reservation, hotel feature and/or means conveyance, without allowance or refund but the extra cost, if any resulting there from, must be paid by the passenger. The right is also reserved to cancel or withdraw any tour, to replace any tour leader with another, to cancel or withdraw any booking made for a passenger, or to decline to accept any person as a member of a tour. The transportation companies or firms shall be exempt from all liabilities in respect of any detention, delay, loss, damage, sickness or injury however and by whomsoever caused and of whatever kind occurring or to the passenger at any time when the passenger is not on board a carrier or conveyance used or operated by the transportation companies or firms. The contract of passage in use by the transportation companies or firms concerned shall constitute the sole contract between transportation companies or firms, and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. All tickets, deposit tickets, coupons or orders are furnished and issued subject in all respects to those terms and conditions under which the means of transportation or other services provided there by are offered or supplied by owners, public carriers, or managing agents. The issuance and acceptance of receipts, tickets, vouchers, coupons, or exchange orders shall be deemed consent to the above conditions. The tour is based on flights as detailed in the itinerary, however any other IATA or non-IATA carrier may be used for tour co-ordination.

I have read and understand the Responsibility section and Booking Conditions as set out on this page of this form and accept them on behalf of myself and my party. I declare that I/they are not travelling against any medical advice.

Signature:



For further information please contact Opulent Journeys:
Australia: 1300 219 885 New Zealand: 0800 456 219
Email: enquiries@opulentjourneys.com.au
opulentjourneys.com.au