

1: Sichuan | province, China | www.enganchecubano.com

Abstract. Published as a volume of Solid Earth Science Researches in China the monograph Paleotethysides in West Yunnan and Sichuan, China by Zhong Dalai et al. () describes the present state of knowledge of the evolution of the mountain belts which occupy Western Yunnan and parts of Sichuan, China.

Between high speed trains and cheap flights, the entire country is conveniently accessible at relatively low cost. So when a local friend with a car offered to road trip with us from Chongqing into northern Yunnan, we were psyched. See beautiful terraced farmland, soak in a hot spring, enjoy scenic mountain landscapes, and catch the elusive black neck cranes. Zhaotong also has an airport. That was too short. For our two friends who were driving, they spent way too much time behind the wheel and not enough time enjoying the scenery. At the intersection is a huge stone map of all the major cities along the Yangtze from Yibin to Shanghai. With our mouths on fire and our bellies full, we got into the car and kept heading south on the G Only about an hour south of Yibin, this hot spring was actually quite nice. Our first goal was to find some rice terraces, which at this time of year would be bright red. Before long, we were deep into rural China and all we could see were fields and fields of local agriculture. This mountain area is primarily a domestic tourist spot. This area is not crowded. Along the path there are some local women who will offer you fruit, nuts, and other snacks. The women wear really thick and stiff coats made out of sheep wool. The coats are so dense and stiff that they are pretty much completely windproof. Along the middle of the path there is a pretty cool road to nowhere, which ends up with the view pictured below. At this point I also realized that I could use my sunglasses in front of the camera lens for a pretty good sepia look. Watching the sunset at the top is pretty spectacular, as the pictures below only futilely begin to express. That night we found another local hotel back up the highway. Sadly, we came too late in the season and missed the majority of the birds we did see a couple small flocks. By the early afternoon we decided to head back to Chongqing. Along the way we passed an interesting looking pagoda near a mountain-side. The sun was already going down, making for a spectacular view. Of course, this being China, when you go inside the seemingly pretty pagoda you are greeted by dozens of human cow paddies. In all, this was a great road trip. Yunnan is such a beautiful province, one could spend months driving across it. We spent a short three days, which was too short indeed. One day it would be great to get an RV and head out into the remote western areas of Yunnan, an adventure for another day.

2: Paleotethysides in West Yunnan and Sichuan, China

Paleotethysides in West Yunnan and Sichuan, China. By Dalai Zhong (editor) and Zhong Dalie. Price. Store. Arrives. Preparing. Shipping.

If you prefer to opt out of dinner and rest after the flight however, please let your tour leader know. There will be a short welcome briefing this evening but the main briefing will be done tomorrow evening in Lijiang when there is more time. Should you wish to have more time in Chengdu perhaps to visit the nearby Giant Panda Breeding Research Centre, Exodus can book additional nights accommodation for you before the tour - please enquire for details. The architecture in the town is particularly noteworthy as it blends elements from several cultures that have come together over hundreds of years. The Lijiang area is home to the Naxi people who are related to Tibetans but have their own language and culture and can only be found in this region. The Jade Dragon Snow Mountain is beautifully framed by the gardens, the central lake, and colourful pagodas. Next, weather permitting we climb up Lion Hill to the five-tier Wangu Pagoda, which offers stunning panoramic views of Lijiang town and the nearby mountains. The guesthouse itself is simple but all rooms are fully equipped and have en-suite facilities. There are beautiful views of the nearby mountains. Tiger Leaping Gorge is one of the deepest on the planet and the surrounding valley is part of a UNESCO natural preservation area, with an unusually large number of different plants and animals in a relatively small region. Legend says that a tiger, in order to escape a hunter, jumped across the gorge at the narrowest point approx. We walk door to door from one guesthouse to the next. The first half of the walk is relatively easy, following a gently undulating trail to Halfway Guesthouse, where we stop for tea. The latter part of the walk involves a long descent a few hundred metres on a fairly steep and rocky zig-zag path and requires careful footwork. Our walk will take us approximately hours around 11km, allowing for plenty of stops to admire the spectacular scenery and towering mountains. If anyone does not want to partake in the walk today, you can transfer to the next guesthouse by road. This evening we stay in another simple guesthouse with views of the sheer rock wall of the opposite side of the gorge. On a clear night, the stars are phenomenal. This ancient town is popular with tourists; its combination of beautiful scenery, authentic local culture and good food meant that a two-day stay could easily turn into two weeks. Today, Dali has retained the small-town charm it grew famous for, and visitors can enjoy the thousand-year-old architecture in the town alongside the beautiful Cangshan Mountain Range and the sparkling Erhai Lake; one of the seven biggest freshwater lakes in China. After lunch, we will take a walking tour to experience the highlights of this pretty place, walking from the South to North Gate as well as seeing the traditional folk houses of the Bai people, which give this town a truly distinctive feel. There will also be time for an optional visit to the iconic Three Pagodas. The market is organised into different sections - vegetarians of the more squeamish may wish to bypass certain aisles. Kunming was once a stop on the caravan routes to South East Asia, India and Tibet and this influence remains in the city in the form of its culture, heritage and excellent food. There is the opportunity to go to the theatre to see the Yunnan Impression Cultural Show optional this evening, which is highly recommended. Yuanyang is frequently visited by national and international photographers who come to capture the terraces in their different states filled with water or rice depending on the time of year, and the iconic sunrise scene is surely the Holy Grail of photographs! From here we will visit nearby Hongwa village to attend the festival. Hongwa village is home to minority Axi people, who hold this annual festival to celebrate the legend where fire was gifted to the community by the local wizard, Mu Deng. Celebrations include a large community gathering where we will witness the reenactment of the fire discovery, followed by much singing and dancing. Afterwards we will transfer back to our hotel in Mile. The rest of the afternoon is free to relax, before another sunset opportunity this evening at Bada Viewpoint. Tuanshan once prospered from trade with South East Asia, which was made possible by the Yunnan - Vietnam railroad. Today, it is like stepping back in time as we visit the well-preserved though somewhat neglected highlights including old mansions, gardens, temples, gateways and a graveyard. This evening we can enjoy some luxury at our hotel in Jinshui. The Garden is a huge residential complex which was built in the late 19th century by a very rich family. Today it is open to the public and

whilst wandering we can appreciate the intricate artwork, elaborate rooms and elegant courtyards, and of course the beautiful and well-preserved gardens. There will also be time to visit the second largest Confucius temple in China, built in the Yuan Dynasty 13th century. This temple is an incredibly peaceful spot with extensive grounds, and we may see locals playing cards or mah-jong in the gardens, or practising ancient Chinese folk songs on their musical instruments. This magnificent landscape covers an area of square kilometres and is an impressive collection of karst rock formations more than million years old. In high season it can be busy here so be prepared for some crowds. Our farewell dinner tonight will be a final opportunity to taste some more delicious Yunnan dishes before we say our goodbyes tomorrow. The group flight is a daytime flight departing Kunming and arriving into London the same day. The trip ends in Kunming after breakfast. Those on the group flights will depart early this morning.

3: China's Wild Yunnan by Exodus Travels from \$ | Stride Travel

Your journey through south-west China starts in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province and the home of the famous Giant Panda Bears. From Chengdu you travel by the modern bullet train CRH via the megacity Chongqing to Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province in the far south-west part of China.

Introduction It is well acknowledged that the architecture of Asia results of the amalgamation of large continents such as Siberia, northern China, southern China, Tarim, Indochina, India, and several microcontinents: Lhasa, Qiangtang, Qaidam, etc. Gondwana dispersion and Asian accretion: The South China Block SCB is one of the most complex ones, as it underwent a long Phanerozoic evolution after its Neoproterozoic formation before Ma during a collisional event that welded the Yangtze and Cathaysia Blocks e. The building of South China: Southeast Asian Earth Sci. Early history of the eastern Sibao orogenic belt South China during the assembly of Rodinia: Tectonic evolution of the Qinling orogen, China: Palaeozoic collision between the North and South China blocks. Triassic intracontinental tectonics, and the problem of the ultrahigh-pressure metamorphism C. Collision leading to multiple-stage large-scale extrusion in the Qinling orogen: Tectonics of the Qinling Belt: Between the Late Ordovician and the Early Silurian, the closure of a Neoproterozoic Nanhua rift was responsible for the building of an intracontinental belt e. Structural development of the Lower Paleozoic belt of South China: Phanerozoic tectonics of the South China Block: From the Devonian to the Early Triassic, during ca. Schematic map of Central-Eastern Asia showing the main continental blocks, ophiolitic sutures, and faults. South China Block; D: Pink lines denote the Triassic belts discussed in this paper. The diamond in Mindoro Island locates the Permian magmatic arc. Tectonic map of the South China Block with emphasis on the Triassic events. The light pink area represents the Xuefengshan belt. Song Chay suture; SMS: Song Ma suture; CLF: Dien Bien Fu fault. Triassic events are widespread all around the SCB Fig. Continental subduction and exhumation of UHP rocks. Structural and geochronological insights from the Dabieshan E. Tectonics of the Qinling Central China: To the northwest, in spite of an intense Cenozoic reworking, a southeast-directed Triassic thrusting is recognized in the Longmenshan belt e. Tectonic of the Longmen Shan and adjacent regions Int. Tectonic evolution of the Triassic fold belts of Tibet C. Furthermore, Middle Triassic events are responsible for the development of the Xuefengshan belt in the internal part of the SCB Chu et al. Early Mesozoic tectonics of the South China Block: The architecture and geodynamic evolution of these belts are still controversial, but it is widely accepted that the SCB belonged to the upper plate above a north northeast or northwest -dipping subduction zone e. Formation of the km-wide intracontinental orogen and post-orogenic magmatic province in Mesozoic South China: The aim of this paper is to synthesize the Triassic tectonic features that develop along the southern margin of the SCB, and in its interior as well. Then a possible geodynamic interpretation, at variance to the present paradigm, will be discussed. The left-lateral ductile displacement that developed in response to the Indian collision was variously estimated from a few tens to several hundreds of kilometers e. The Ailaoshan-Red river metamorphic belt: The strike-slip faulting accounts for the Cenozoic tectonics, but when dealing with the Triassic events, the RRF cannot be considered as a plate boundary, as ophiolites, subduction complexes, or HP metamorphic rocks are lacking. The South China Block-Indochina collision: Indosinian tectonics in Vietnam C.

4: Yunnan - Wikipedia

The geology of West Yunnan has received considerable attention from geoscientists over recent years, because of its situation over the supposed Paleo-Tethyan suture zone, which has been widely considered to represent a major Late Paleozoic ocean between Cathaysia (South China and Indochina) and Gondwana-derived terranes.

Prehistory[edit] The Yuanmou Man , a Homo erectus fossil unearthed by railway engineers in the s, has been determined to be the oldest-known hominid fossil in China. By the Neolithic period, there were human settlements in the area of Lake Dian. These people used stone tools and constructed simple wooden structures. Commanderies and counties were established in Yunnan. The Hanâ€™Dian wars began under Emperor Wu. He dispatched a series of military campaigns against the Dian during the southward expansion of the Han dynasty. The commandery seat was at Dianchi county in present-day Jinning. Another county was called "Yunnan", probably the first use of the name. By this time, agricultural technology in Yunnan had improved markedly. The local people used bronze tools, plows and kept a variety of livestock, including cattle, horses, sheep, goats, pigs and dogs. Anthropologists have determined that these people were related to the people now known as the Tai. They lived in tribal congregations, sometimes led by exiled Chinese. During the Three Kingdoms , the territory of present-day Yunnan, western Guizhou and southern Sichuan was collectively called Nanzhong. The dissolution of Chinese central authority led to increased autonomy for Yunnan and more power for the local tribal structures. His seven captures of Meng Huo , a local magnate, is much celebrated in Chinese folklore. International trade flowed by din of Yunnan. Henceforth the Cuan clan ruled eastern Yunnan for over four hundred years. Nanzhao Before the rise and dominance of the Nanzhao Kingdom around Yunnan in the eighth century, many local tribes, clans, and other groups sprang up. Around Lake Erhai , namely, the Dali area, there emerged six zhao: By the s Nanzhao had succeeded in bringing the Erhai Lakeâ€™area under its authority. In , the western Yunnan was united by Piluoge , the fourth king of Nanzhao, who was confirmed by the imperial court of the Tang dynasty as king of Yunnan. Ruling from Dali, the thirteen kings of Nanzhao ruled over more than two centuries and played a part in the dynamic relationship between China and Tibet. By the s, Nanzhao had taken eastern Yunnan into its empire and had become a potential rival to Tang China. The following period inevitably saw conflicts between Tang China and Nanzhao. In , Nanzhao attacked and captured Yaozhou, the largest Tang settlement in Yunnan. Geluofeng regarded the previous incident as personal and wrote to Xianyu to seek peace. However, Xianyu Zhongtong detained the Nanzhao envoys and turned down the appeal. Confronted with Tang armies, Nanzhao immediately turned its allegiance to Tubo. The Tubo and Nanzhao agreed to be "fraternal states"; Geluofeng was given the titles zanpuzhong "younger brother". Tang China did not give up after one failure. In , another expedition was prepared, but this was also defeated by Nanzhao. In , the Tang organized an army of more than , troops that advanced to the Dali plain, resulting in only another slaughter. By the end of the eighth century, Tang was no longer a major threat to Nanzhao. In , Nanzhao suddenly plundered Sichuan and entered Chengdu. When it retreated, hundreds of Sichuan people, including skilled artisans, were taken to Yunnan. In , the Nanzhao army captured the capital of the Pyu kingdom in modern upper Burma. Nanzhao also attacked the Khmer peoples of Zhenla. Generally speaking, Nanzhao was then the most powerful kingdom in mainland Southeast Asia, and played an extremely active role in multistate interactions. In , Nanzhao captured Bozhou , and this event exacerbated the Nanzhao-Tang clashes. When the Tang governor of Annam took Bozhou back in the following year, Nanzhao, with the help of native peoples, occupied Hanoi as the Tang army moved to Bozhou. When the Tang forces returned, Nanzhao troops retreated from Hanoi but attacked and plundered Yongzhou. In the winter of , Nanzhao, allying with local groups, led an army of over 50, men to invade Annam again. It is reported that the Tang forces lost over , soldiers either killed or captured by Nanzhao in the two Annam battles. The autumn of saw Tang victory in Hanoi and soon all of the Nanzhao forces were driven away. But Tang China had lost its ability to attack Nanzhao. While Nanzhao was being defeated in Annam, it still occasionally attacked Sichuan. In , Nanzhao attacked Sichuan again. Nanzhao, a once-powerful empire, disappeared. The Duans incorporated into the Mongol dominion as Maharajahs of the new province. The

Mongolian prince sent to administer the region with them was killed. But with the fall of the Yuan dynasty in , the Ming dynasty destroyed the Yuan loyalists led by Basalawarmi in the Ming conquest of Yunnan by the early s. A scene of the Qing campaign against the Miao people in During the Ming and Qing dynasties, large areas of Yunnan were administered under the native chieftain system. Under the Qing dynasty a war with Burma also occurred in the s due to the attempted consolidation of borderlands under local chiefs by both China and Burma. Although largely forgotten, the bloody Panthay Rebellion of the Muslim Hui people and other local minorities against the Manchu rulers of the Qing dynasty caused the deaths of up to a million people in Yunnan. The Qing armies only massacred Muslims who had rebelled or supported the rebels and spared Muslims who took no part in the uprising. His book, *An Australian in China*, [16] details his experiences. Yunnan was transformed by the events of the war against Japan , which caused many east coast refugees and industrial establishments to relocate to the province. But as the Japanese forces were gaining more territory they eventually bombed Changsha in February In these extraordinary wartime circumstances for eight years, staff, professors and students had to survive and operate in makeshift quarters that were subject to sporadic bombing campaigns by the Japanese. There were dire shortages of food, equipment, books, clothing and other essential needs, but they managed to conduct the running of a modern university. The book, *Camps and Trails in China* , records their experiences. Other notable explorers include Heinrich Handel-Mazzetti ; George Forrest ; Joseph Francis Charles Rock , who from 1893 spent most of his time studying the flora, peoples and languages of southwest China, mainly in Yunnan; and Peter Goullart , a White Russian who studied Naxi culture and lived in Lijiang from 1907 to 1911. Snowy mountains in Diqing , northwestern Yunnan. Terrace field yunnan china.

5: China: Magnificent South-West | The Yunnan and Sichuan Travel & Tours Experts

Baoshan or Yongchang as it was called in the old days is located in south west Yunnan about half way between Dali and Ruili. The city of Baoshan also played an important role during WW II when the Flying Tigers were operating an Airbase in the area.

Chengdu, the modern and pulsating capital of Sichuan had developed in recent years into the economic center of western China. A modern ambitious metropolis with high buildings made of glass, Western quick food restaurant chains, and many modern shopping centers is waiting its visitors. Overnight accommodation in Chengdu. In the morning the pandas are particularly active, and you have the chance to observe those astonishing animals “threatened with extinction” in an almost natural environment while eating their bamboo breakfast. The most famous inhabitant of Chengdu in Sichuan Province: The origins of Baoguan Monastery go back to the eastern Han dynasty. During the Tang dynasty, when Buddhism started to spread in China, Baoguan Monastery gained importance and became a Buddhist center in the region. The story pagoda, 30 meters high, dates from that time. The trip continues to Sanxingdui. In excavations revealed many masks and statues made of bronze and many valuable objects made of gold and jade. You visit the Sanxingdui museum. Travel back to Chengdu. At 71 meters high the colossal and impressive Buddha of Leshan is regarded as the biggest Buddha sculpture in the world. The Giant Buddha of Leshan was chiseled out of a stone wall in more than 90 years of work in the 8th century. You visit Dafo Park, from where the incredible dimensions of the Giant Buddha of Leshan come impressively into their own. After lunch you take a short boat trip on Min River. From the boat you have the best view of the whole Buddha of Leshan. Overnight stay in Qianwei. At a leisurely pace the trip by steam train takes you through the picturesque landscape to Huangcunjing. To transport coal from the coal mine in Huangcunjing, in a narrow-gauge track was built to Mamiao. The rail track, about 20 km long, at that time served only to transport coal and the mine workers. A short hike to the village Bajiaogou. Trip by the electric cart Baima Miao, where the driver is waiting for you for the journey to the Zigong Salt Wells. Trip to the salt well at Zigong. During the Qing dynasty the idyllic village was an important trading post and harbor town where the excavated salt was weighed, cleaned, traded, and finally loaded onto ships. Travel on to Zigong. Check-in at the hotel. Especially during the Ming and Qing dynasties Zigong developed, thanks to its underground salt reserves, into an important and wealthy trading town. The beginnings of salt mining in Zigong go back to the Eastern Han dynasty, when the first salt wells were drilled for Emperor Zhangdi. You visit the museum that presents the history of salt mining in Zigong. The interesting exposition gives information on the technique of salt mining, salt trading, and the working conditions in the salt mines of Zigong. From Zigong you travel back to Chengdu. Check-in at your hotel in Chengdu Day 6: Travel to the Dazu grottoes, China Transfer to the high-speed railroad station of Chengdu and trip by bullet train to Dazu. You will be met by your guide at the Dazu railroad station. From the Dazu railway station it is only a short trip to the stone sculptures of Dazu situated about one hour west of Chongqing. That extraordinary collection of stone sculptures originated between the 9th and 13th centuries and consists of more than 10, figures which have all been chiseled out of the sheer rock. Afterwards travel to your hotel in Chongqing. Overnight stay in Chongqing. Travel by high speed train from Chongqing to Kunming, Yunnan Province Transfer to the high speed railroad station of Chongqing. Arrival in Kunming at the fast train station at Chenggong. You are met at the station in Kunming by your Yunnan tourguide. Travel from Kunming to Jianshui. Near Tonghai you explore Mount Xiu Shan, which is waiting with an interesting collection of temples and pagodas from various dynasties. Continue your journey to Jianshui. Late in the afternoon you visit the impressive Confucius Temple with its lovely gardens and many temples and pavilions. Its 18 arches span over a river bed that meanwhile has become dry. The river has only recently been redirected to its former river bed. Afterwards you travel on to the traditional Zhuang village called Tuanshan, which is waiting for you with its unique and well-preserved wooden architecture. In the afternoon travel in the direction of the fascinating rice terraces of Yuanyang. En route you make a break at the Swallow Caves situated about 20 km outside of Jianshui. Over millions of years Lu River has created this impressive system of caves. In spring and summer

hundreds of thousands of swallows make their nests in the caves: Continue your journey through a beautiful landscape to the rice terraces of Yuanyang. Sunrise over Yuanyang Rice Terraces Day 9: If possible, visit a colorful markets in the Yuanyang area, where members of the Yi, Lisu and Hani ethnic groups do their shopping in their traditional costumes. The Hani is one of the 26 ethnic minorities in Yunnan Province in southwest China. Most Hani inhabit mountain areas between and meters above sea level and are mainly engaged in agriculture. Travel back to your Hotel. Overnight accommodation takes place in Yuanyang in a hotel near the Rice Terraces. The Stone Forest of Lunan is one of the best known and most popular attractions in Yunnan province in China. Over millions of years rain and erosion have formed a uniquely impressive landscape. You take a walking tour of about 1. After dinner you embark on the night train to Dali. You are met by your guide at the Dali train station. On your trip to Weishan you make a stop in Donglianhua. The inhabitants of Donglianhua are descendants of Muslim soldiers who conquered Yunnan province in the 13th century for the Mongolian armies of Kublai Khan. Till today most inhabitants of Donglianhua belong to the ethnic group of the Hui. After the Ming takeover from the Mongolian Yuan dynasty in many of the soldiers stayed in Donglianhua Yunnan. Gradually the former riders became peasants and traders. Continue your journey to Weishan. The town of Weishan is situated 52 km south of Dali and was once an important and prosperous trading place during the Nanzhao Kingdom in the 8th and 9th centuries. You take a stroll through the idyllic old town of Weishan. On the beautiful hike through pine forests you explore some of the many temples. The village of Xizhou is known for its well-preserved Bai architecture. Overnight accommodation is at Xizhou. Dali is situated on the western bank of Lake Erhai at the foot of the impressive Cang mountain range. In the 9th century Dali was the capital of the gigantic Nanzhao Kingdom before the historic city was overrun years later by the Mongols. The area around Dali is predominantly inhabited by the Bai ethnic group known till today for skilful craftsmanship. Take a stroll through old town Dali. In doing so you visit the market, the Catholic church, and the old city gates. Trip by chair lift up to Zhonghe Monastery. From there a marvelous simple hiking path over 11 km long leads along the eastern flank of Cang mountain range and opens up a glorious view of the Dali Valley and Lake Erhai. Overnight accommodation at Xizhou village. The area around Yunlong was once known for salt mining. Especially the village of Nuodeng made a name for itself because of the outstanding quality of its salt, and through trade and transport of that salt it achieved significant affluence. Likewise, there are many well-preserved wind and rain bridges in the area around Nuodeng and Yunlong. Overnight stay in a rustic guesthouse in Nuodeng. In the main those goods were Tibetan horses and salt exchanged for tea from Yunnan. Shaxi was an important and affluent trading station on that route. Walking tour through the idyllic village of Shaxi. You will spend the night in a traditional house "transformed into a hostel" right near the village square. You explore the many temples and pavilions from various dynasties and admire the rock drawings that are over 1, years old "witnesses from a time when Mahayana Buddhism began to spread in Yunnan. The hike opens up a glorious view of the whole Shaxi Valley. The rest of the day is at your disposal. Overnight accommodation is near the village square in Shaxi. According to legend a tiger once escaped from his hunters here by saving himself by leaping to the other side. On the scenic trail you hike for about two hours until you reach the Naxi Family Guesthouse. The views are simply breathtaking!

6: Sichuan Travel Guide, Hometown of Giant Pandas

In palaeogeographical reconstructions of China, the central and southern parts of Tibet and the western portion of Yunnan are generally regarded as a special region, namely the Tibet-West Yunnan region.

See Article History Alternative Titles: It is located in the upper Yangtze River Chang Jiang valley in the southwestern part of the country. Sichuan is the second largest of the Chinese provinces. It is bordered by the provinces of Gansu and Shaanxi to the north, the territory of Chongqing municipality to the east, the provinces of Guizhou and Yunnan to the south, the Tibet Autonomous Region to the west, and the province of Qinghai to the northwest. Sichuan was the most populous province in China until Chongqing and adjacent areas were separated from it in order to create the independent province-level municipality in The capital, Chengdu , is located near the centre of the province. Sichuan Highlands of Sichuan province, China. From economic, political, geographical, and historical points of view, the heart and nerve centre of Sichuan is in the eastern, Sichuan Basin area, also called the Red Basin Hongpen. Its mild and humid climate, fertile soil, and abundant mineral and forestry resources make it one of the most prosperous and economically self-sufficient regions of China. The area has been seen by some as China in a microcosm and is often viewed as a country within a country. Sichuan province, China Aerial footage of farmland in Sichuan province, China. To the north the Qin Tsinling Mountains extend from east to west and attain an elevation between 11, and 13, feet 3, and 4, metres above sea level. The limestone Daba Mountains rise to approximately 9, feet 2, metres on the northeast, while the Dalou Mountains, a lower and less continuous range with an average elevation of 5, to 7, feet 1, to 2, metres , border the south. To the west the Daxue Mountains of the Tibetan borderland rise to an average elevation of 14, feet 4, metres. To the east the rugged Wu Mountains , rising to about 6, feet 2, metres , contain the spectacular Yangtze Gorges. In general, the relief of the eastern region of Sichuan province is in sharp contrast to that of the west. The extensive Sichuan Basin and its peripheral highlands predominate in the east; the land slopes toward the centre of the basin from all directions. This basin was a gulf of the China Sea in the later Paleozoic Era which ended about million years ago ; most of it is underlain by soft sandstones and shales that range in colour from red to purple. Within the basin the surface is extremely uneven and gives a general appearance of badland topography. Numerous low, rolling hills are interspersed with well-defined high ridges, floodplains, valley flats, and small local basins. The landforms of western Sichuan include a plateau in the north and mountains in the south. The northern area is part of the edge of the Plateau of Tibet , which consists of highlands above 12, feet 3, metres and higher mountain ranges. There is also an extensive plateau and some swampland. To the south the transverse mountain belt of eastern Tibet and western Yunnan province rises to an average of 9, to 10, feet 2, to 3, metres. Trending from north to south is a series of parallel lofty ranges with narrow divides and canyons more than a mile deep. Mount Gongga Minya Konka , in the Daxue range, is the highest peak in the province, rising to a height of 24, feet 7, metres. Sichuan lies in a highly active seismic zone. The eastern portion of the province is part of a relatively small crustal block that is being compressed by the mountainous western portion of Sichuan as it is displaced eastward by the constant northward movement of India against southern Asia. Over the centuries this activity has produced numerous strong earthquakes , including one in that killed nearly 10, people and a much more severe quake in that caused tens of thousands of deaths, hundreds of thousands of injuries, and widespread damage in the affected area including Chengdu. Drainage Seen from the air, the principal drainage pattern of the eastern section of the province has the appearance of a leaf with a network of veins. The Yangtze â€”flowing from west to eastâ€”is conspicuous as its midrib, and the main north and south tributaries appear as its branch veins. Especially important are the Jialing and Min river systems in the north. The distribution of these veins is primarily concentrated in the upper, or northern, half of the leaf. The four main tributaries of the Yangtze are the Min, Tuo, Jialing, and Fu rivers, which flow from north to south. Most of the major streams flow to the south, cutting steep gorges in the west or widening their valley floors in the soft sediments of the Sichuan Basin; they then empty into the Yangtze before it slices its precipitous gorge through the Wu River below Wanxian now in Chongqing municipality. Within the basin most of the rivers are navigable and are a common means of

transportation. Soils There are six major soil regions—three in the east and three in the west. In the east they include the highly fertile purple-brown forest soils for which the Red Basin is named. This group of soils rapidly absorbs and loses water, and it erodes easily. The other eastern soils consist of the noncalcareous alluvium and rice paddy soils of the Chengdu Plain and other river valleys and the yellow earths of the highlands and ridges. The alluvial soils are the most important group agriculturally, as they are highly fertile and are formed mainly from the rich black soils washed down from the Tibetan borderlands. The yellow earths are usually gray-brown in colour, are generally less fertile, and are agriculturally unimportant. In Sichuan a form of soil erosion known as soil creep has developed. On hillsides where the surface slopes are composed of smooth sandstones, the covering soil gradually slides downward under the influence of gravity. In many places the thin surface soils have been completely removed, leaving only bare rocks. When the surface rock is composed of comparatively rougher shales, the soil is less easily moved. Climate The eastern basin area and the lower western valleys are sheltered from cold polar air masses by the surrounding mountains. The climate is therefore milder than would be expected and is similar to that of the Yangtze delta region. The eastern basin has more than frost-free days annually, and the growing season is nearly year-round. In the west the sheltering effect of the mountains is evident from the contrast between the perennially snowcapped peaks and the mild weather prevailing in the valleys beneath them. The eastern rainy season begins in April and reaches its peak during July and August. Annual precipitation generally as rain measures about 40 inches 1, mm annually. The east is noted for its frequent fogs, its many cloudy days, the relative absence of wind, and the high relative humidity. The average total of about 20 inches mm falls mainly during the summer and early autumn, and there is heavy snowfall in the mountains during the winter. Plant and animal life There are four major vegetation regions in Sichuan: Extensive forests grow on the upper slopes, and lush growths of rhododendrons are found below those forests, though still at high elevations; arid vegetation prevails on many canyon floors. One of the outstanding features of vegetation of Sichuan province is its division into vertically differentiated zones. Cypress, palm, pine, bamboo, tung, and citrus fruit trees grow below 2, feet metres , while between 2, and 5, feet and 1, metres there are evergreen forests and oaks. From 5, to 8, feet 1, and 2, metres the vegetation is characterized by dense groves of mixed coniferous trees. Between 8, and 11, feet 2, and 3, metres there is a subalpine zone of coniferous forest , while above 11, feet there are alpine zones of scrub and meadow up to the snow line , which occurs at 16, feet 4, metres. One of the unique vegetational features is the presence of the dawn redwood *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* —a tree previously believed to be extinct—in the zone of mixed conifers. Two of the most interesting indigenous animal species are the panda , or bear cat , and the lingyang a special species of antelope. Both inhabit the highlands of western Sichuan, and both have become endangered because of overcutting of the vegetation that is the mainstay of their diet. However, the province is best known as the principal home of the world-famous and highly endangered giant panda , whose habitat is now largely confined to a series of protected areas in the mountains of central Sichuan; these reserves collectively were designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in Most of the Han—who constitute the major part of the population—live in the basin region of the east. The Yi reside in the Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture in the southwest, while the Tibetans are distributed in the plateau region of the west. The Miao live in the southern mountains, near Guizhou and Yunnan provinces. The majority of the non-Han ethnic groups are fiercely independent and have maintained their traditional way of life. In most cases, they practice a mixture of agriculture, animal husbandry , and hunting. Among the Han there has been an influx of people from various neighbouring provinces, particularly from Hubei and Shaanxi. This immigration was especially intensified in the early part of the 18th century, as a result of the massacre of the people of Sichuan by a local warlord. The immigrants brought with them agricultural techniques that are reflected in the heterogeneity of present cultivation patterns. There are three major linguistic groups: The Han practice a mixture of Confucianism , Buddhism , and Daoism. They do not maintain rigid boundaries in religious belief. The Tibetans follow their own form of Buddhism. Many people in the northwest profess Islam , while some hill peoples of the southwest practice traditional beliefs. Settlement patterns As one of the most densely populated provinces of China, Sichuan may be compared to the Yangtze River delta and the North China Plain. Its population is unevenly distributed, however, with most people concentrated in the eastern part of the province.

The majority of the population is rural. There are comparatively few large villages and nucleated hamlets, except for the provincial and prefectural capitals. In the hilly regions, farmsteads are scattered through generally small and irregular terraced fields. In the Chengdu Plain the larger field units are commonly square or oblong in shape, and the farmsteads are surrounded by groves of banyan, cypress, mimosa, palm, or bamboo. Most urban settlements give the appearance of being compactly built. Generally, the houses have only one story. There are no yards or sidewalks in front of the houses, which abut streets that are narrow and often are paved with limestone slabs. One of the outstanding features of urban settlement is the concentration of cities on river terraces, notably along the Yangtze River. Because water transportation is vital, large cities are always found wherever two major streams converge. Examples of such cities are Luzhou , at the juncture of the Yangtze and Tuo rivers, and Leshan , at the confluence of the Dadu and the Min. The principal characteristic of these urban sites is that their areas are limited by their locations, so that urban expansion is hindered; in addition, the hazards of flooding are always a problem. Economy Sichuan, occupying an important position in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, is the strongest province in western China in terms of overall economic strength. The Sichuan Basin has a good natural environment , abounds in specialty products, and commands an ample labour force. Its outputs of grain, meat, rapeseed, and silkworm cocoons are ranked among the highest in China. Completely integrated industrial sectors produce high-quality machinery, electronics, metallurgical products, chemicals, building materials, foodstuffs, and silk. Agriculture and forestry Most of the population of Sichuan earn their livelihood from agriculture, and a large portion of the provincial exports are agricultural products. They are easy to construct because the bedrock is soft and weathers easily. Even degree slopes have tiny steps of terraced land. Irrigation is widely practiced in the terraced fields, and numerous methods and devices are employed. Among the most spectacular is the ancient Dujiangyan irrigation system of the Chengdu Plain , which dates to the Qin dynasty â€” bce ; it captures the torrential flow of the Min River and guides it through an artificial multiplication of channels into numerous distributaries along the gently graded plain.

7: Tours | Wonders of Yunnan Travel

China Scientific Books: Paleogeography - Sciences Engineering Social Sciences Earth Science Agriculture Science Botany Paleontology Marine Science Zoology Biology & Ecology Medicine.

Geographically, the province is part of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in the west and basin in the east. The Yangtze River runs through the basin and thus is upstream to the areas of eastern China. With an approximate population of 87million, the land is mainly occupied by the Han majority, the Yi minority, the Tibetan minority, the Hui Minority and the Qiang minority. Sichuan has the civilization over years. Chengdu, Zigong, Leshan, Yibin, Luzhou, Langzhong and Dujiangyan are the national historic culture cities with 40 national cultural relic preservations and 24 provincial historical and cultural cities towns. From the ancient times hydraulic engineering, the common residence at old towns to the celebrity former dwelling, from the Daoism and the Buddhism temples, the rock carvings and murals to the modern art museums, from the prehistoric ruins to the modern constructions, has everything expected to find. Check out an travel story of a independent trip to western Sichuan Province. The western plateau and the mountainous regions are the important pastoral areas and forest regions, which is rich in bamboo, white wax, traditional Chinese medicine fritillaries, and elk fragrance and so on. On the other hand, the most industrialized province of southwestern China, it is a center for coal mining, petroleum refining, and chemical production: Overview The province of Sichuan is in southwest China. If you like spicy food, Sichuan cuisine is famous. The province is 1, kilometers wide from west to east and kilometers wide from north to south. The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is in the western part, and a drier basin is in the eastern part. Some of the eastern part of the province including Chengdu, the capital, is supplied with water from a 2, year old irrigation system called the Dujiangyan that is a tourist site of interest. Geography Geographically, the province is divided into three major regions. There is a region of high mountains in the southwest, a high plateau in the northwest, and a lowland region in the eastern part of the province. In the southwest is the Minshan Mountain range that is an eastern extension of the Himalayas. The mountains are very tall, and many are over 5, meters about 16, feet high so they have a range of ecological zones, glaciers and snowcapped peaks. There are nature reserves preserving many endangered plant and animals. The scenery is breath-taking. In particular, Huanglong Reserve and Jiuzhaigou Reserve are famous for streams, high peaks, forests, hot springs and beautiful travertine colored pools. Many people who have travelled widely say that they are the most beautiful places they have ever been in. Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic Area The western lowlands are more arid than the higher regions. But it is cloudier. Chengdu , the capital of Sichuan Province lies in the lowlands, and some people say that it is even cloudier than London. The navigable Yangtze River runs through the basin and flows into eastern China. Chengdu has been a major city for thousands of years, so there are a number of interesting historical sites. At the boundary of the mountainous and lowland region about 50 kilometers from Chengdu, the Dujiangyan Irrigation Project was constructed more than 2, years ago to supply water to the drier lowlands around Chengdu. This civilization has been named the Shu. It was only discovered in Two archaeological sites have been uncovered so far. The Sanxingdui site was discovered about 45 kilometers northwest of Chengdu in The artifacts found at these sites, especially the unusually large bronze objects found in the remains of a Shu city at the Sanxingdui archaeological site astounded archaeologists. Artifacts from an earlier Neolithic culture dating up to 6, BC were also unearthed at the Sanxingdui site, as were artifacts from a later civilization dating up to about BC. Two new museums at the Jinsha and Sanxingdui sites house these discoveries that are considered national treasures. This kingdom was conquered in BC by the Qin dynasty, and it then became a part of that large empire. It was during this dynasty that the Dujiangyan irrigation and flood control project was built. Sites to Visit Sichuan is full of ancient and natural places to visit, and has noted wildlife preservation areas. The government has attempted to preserve historical and cultural sites. You can see the remains of ancient civilizations which existed years ago, and buildings and temples built in the last millennia. Seven cities in the province are recognized as national historical and cultural cities: There are 40 key national cultural reserves and 24 cities and towns that are designated as historical reserves by the provincial government. You may visit

ancient feats of engineering, natural wonders and wildlife refuges, Daoist and Buddhist temples, watch Sichuan opera, eat Sichuan cuisine , and visit modern cities and the sites of ancient civilizations. The Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area and nearby Jiuzhaigou Valley are particularly famous for the beautiful mountain scenery and the colorful hot spring pools. It is only about 10 km away from the city center of Chengdu. Travel time from the city center to the research center is about 35 minutes by taxi. You can get up close with these interesting and quiet creatures. The famous 2, year old irrigation project that was mentioned several times in this article is called Dujiangyan. The main archeological site of this civilization is called Sanxingdui. The Sanxingdui site and museum is about an hour away from Chengdu by bus. According to historical records, the Cuisine originated in the ancient nations of Ba and Shu. Sichuan comes from "Four Lus"-Lu is the ancient administrative unit of Song Dynasty , and Sichuan is composed of four lus. So the Cuisine has four styles and divided by location: Chengdu , Chongqing , the Yangtze and the Jialing River. Sichuan peppercorn, chilli, ginger, spicy herbs and broad bean chilli paste are the major ingredients that feature the flavor in Sichuan cuisine. The cooking techniques include stir frying, steaming, braising and so on, and the total distinct techniques of a complete list is The Sichuan cuisine starts popularly after the 80s reform and open policy in the nation, Comrade Deng Xiaoping has the very big contribution to the Sichuan cuisine development. Although many dishes are honored to their spicy reputation, often ignored are the large number of recipes that use little or no hot spices at all, including dishes such as Tea Smoked Duck pinyin:

8: Great Shangri-La Adventure Route, Yunnan & Sichuan - China Trekking Guide, Route, Map, Photo

West China Adventure includes Yunnan-Tibet, Yunnan-Sichuan, Sichuan-Tibet, Sichuan-Qinghai, Qinghai-Tibet Overland Tours! West China is the destination of Shangri-la, visit this region to explore the Lost Horizon!

Yunnan province locates in the west part of China near to Sichuan, Tibet, Guizhou and Guangxi province with many of Chinese minorities. Recent years, there are many documentary files introducing some of the interesting Yunnan foods which attracted me absolutely. In China, if you ask people about the representative dishes of Yunnan food or Yunnan cuisine, most of the answers would be Guoqiao Mixian which is translated as across the bridge noodles literally. Yunnan Rice Noodles Across the bridge noodle usually is a bowl with rice noodles, meat slices and vegetables along with chicken stock. At the very beginning, the soup and the ingredients are separated. The story behind the name comes firstly. For the name of across the bridge noodles, it is recorded that one caring wife brings food to her husband who is studying on a small island. She needs to cross a bridge each time for the food delivery. However she finds that each time when she had crossed the bridge, the noodles get cooled and soggy. So she use a large earthen pot to keep the chicken stock warm with more oil and then the ingredients separated. And then pour the hot chicken stock on the cooked rice noodles and fresh side ingredients. Nowadays, the side ingredients are served in some small plates with one bowl of cooked rice noodles and another large bowl with hot broth. We have visited one famous rice noodle restaurant in Kunming and taste some of their excellent rice noodles dishes. Those noodles can be replaced by another Yunnan food Erkuai. Erkuai noodles with deep-fried pork rind Erkuai is one type of highly refined and compressed rice cake, which can further be made into different textures for example noodles or a large pancake. Pan-fried or roasted erkuai with pickled cabbage and spicy sauce Jidou Liangfen Jidou in fact is gram. Chinese people use different flours to make various types of Liangfen for example green bean liangfen, sweet potato liangfen. The making processes are quite similar. After the liangfen is formed, usually it is served with some spices or pickled cabbage. Tofu There are many interesting tofu recipes in Yunnan province including the famous Lufu. Lufu is one type of fermented bean curd.

9: Sichuan Maps, Sichuan China Map, Sichuan Province Map

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It is a big province. But the province is divided into three major geographical regions. There is a region of high mountains in the southwest, a high plateau in the northwest, and a lowland region in the eastern part of the province. Here is a description of the weather in the three regions. Eastern Lowlands The eastern basin area is warmer than the higher elevations, but often cloudy or foggy. This area has a subtropical monsoon climate. It is fairly warm in the winter, dry in the spring, hot in the summer, and rainy in the autumn. The average temperature in January is degrees Celsius degree Fahrenheit. The average temperature in July is degrees Celsius degrees Fahrenheit. There are to cloudy and rainy days a year in the plain. The average temperature in Chengdu in January is about 6 degrees Celsius, and in July it is about 25 degrees Celsius. In Chengdu, the rainy season extends from May through September, and the dry season extends from October through April. Northwestern High Plateau The high plateau in the northwest is typical of high plateaus: The temperature drops during the night. In contrast to the basin, parts of the plateau may bask in 2, hours of sunshine a year. Gangzi Township is nicknamed "the small sunshine city". Mountainous Southwest The climate in the high mountain region in the southwest of course depends on the altitude. The climate is alpine and even arctic in the highest peaks. The valley of the Jinshajiang River has a tropical climate. In the valleys, the dry season and the rainy season are obvious. May to September is the wet season, and October to April is the dry season. The high mountains southwest of Chengdu are good places to go in the summer.

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