

YUNNAN 云南旅游文化时报

# TOURISM CULTURE TIMES

Travel to Lincang by bullet train  
坐上高铁游临沧

Angelic tunes from  
Xiaoshuijing choir  
来自小水井的天籁之音

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峡谷又闻马铃声



# Dali old town listed as national tourist resort

## 云南大理古城入选“国家级旅游度假区”



The Dali ancient city was recently listed as a national tourist resort in a notice by the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism, together with other 14 scenic areas across the country.

Located in the Dali city in west Yunnan, the historical old town is the former sites of Nanzhao Kingdom (738-902) and Dali Kingdom (937-1094, 1096-1253). The area witnessed cultural exchanges between China and the Southeast Asian countries. And as a traditional business hub, the Dali old town is a rich source of the Bai culture and a melting pot of ethnic cultures.

In recent years, the Dali town has been building a green tourist resort at the

foot of Mt. Cangshan, which stands on the western bank of Lake Erhai. Using its waters and vegetations, the old town designed for tourists a diversity of leisure activities like hot-spring bathing, picking medicinal herbs and tea making. They allowed visitors to enjoy the idyllic peace there.

In August 2020, the Yang Liping grand theater was built up in Dali ancient city. Featuring talent shows, exhibitions, art rooms and other entertainments, the theater further fused ethnic cultures into eco-tourism, turning itself a new height of Yunnan cultural tourism.

(Reporting by Duan Jianxin; Transediting by Wang Shixue)

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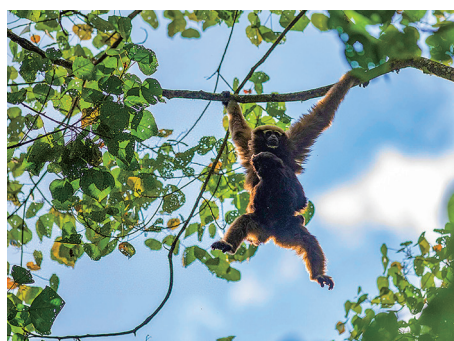
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At the beginning of 2021, cherry flowers are blooming near Dianchi Lake in central Yunnan's Kunming. Appealing to locals and visitors alike, the lovely flowers formed a dazzling scene on winter days in the Spring City.

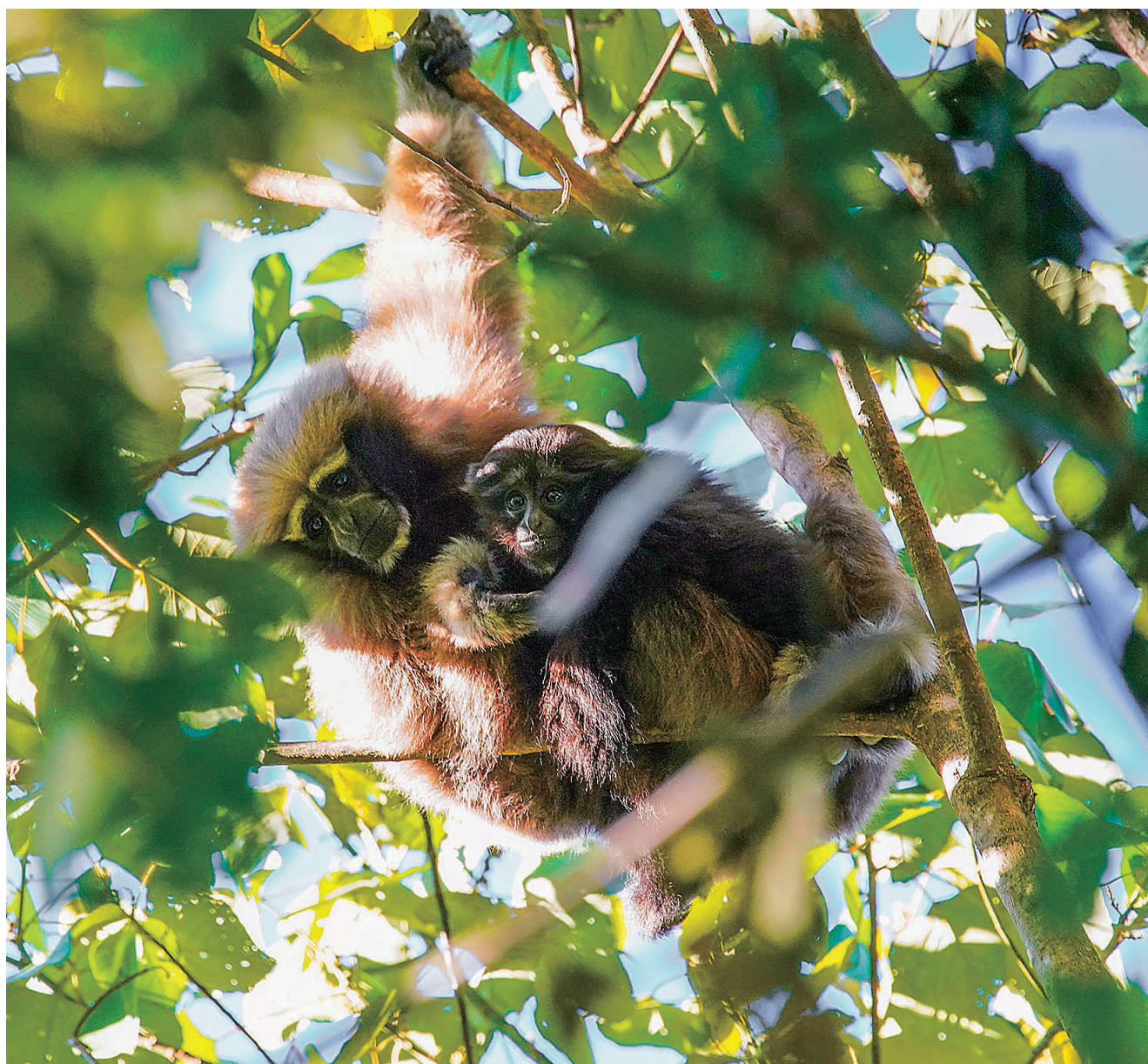
新年伊始，云南省昆明市滇池边的冬樱花盛开，成为冬日春城一抹亮丽的风景，吸引市民和游客驻足观赏。



Wildlife photographers recently captured images of a parent-child pair of skywalker gibbons in the Xiangbo village of Yingjiang County, west Yunnan's Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture.

Also known as the Gaoligong gibbon, skywalker gibbons are under the first-class state protection in China. With a national population of around 150, the rare species mostly lives in the Gaoligong Mountain and the Daniangshan area in Yingjiang.

近日，在云南省德宏傣族景颇族自治州盈江县支那乡香柏村附近，生态摄影师拍摄到一对天行长臂猿母子活动的影像。据了解，天行长臂猿（也称高黎贡白眉长臂猿）为中国国家一级保护动物，中国国内种群数量约150只，主要分布在云南高黎贡山部分区域和盈江县大娘山片区。





## Dreamy fog scenes in Mt. Bozhu, SE Yunnan

滇东薄竹 云海仙境



Picture taken by a Yunnan Daily correspondent on Jan. 6 shows the dreamy fog scenes in the Bozhu Mountain, southeast Yunnan's Wenshan Zhuang and

Miao Autonomous Prefecture. Standing 77 kilometers away from the prefectural capital of Wenshan City, the mountain covers 76 square kilometers.

With its peak being 2,997 meters above the sea level, Bozhu tops all mountains in southeast Yunnan.

(Yunnan Daily)

## Jiaozi Mountain welcomes first snow of 2021

昆明轿子雪山迎来新年第一场雪



The Jiaozi Snow Mountain in north Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan province, welcomed the first snow of 2021 yesterday. According to a staff from the Jiaozi Snow Mountain Scenic Area, the snow began at the

night of January 10. Up to the morning of January 11, the entire scenic area had been covered by white snow, and the local temperature had seen a dramatic decline. With a highest elevation of

4,223 meters (approximately 13,856 feet), the Jiaozi Snow Mountain has long been considered a major winter tourist destination in Yunnan.

(Yunnan Net)

## Erhai in west Yunnan presents new look

美丽洱海展新颜

Sights of the beautiful Erhai Lake in west Yunnan's Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture impressed visitors and local residents a lot during the 2021 New

Year holiday. Thanks to effective protection of the Erhai lake and its surroundings over the past years, visitors now can enjoy a better

time in the area, which features, blue sky, clear waters, fitness trails, woods, flowers, and wet lands.

(Yunnan Net)

## Hani Old Song lures audiences

云南元阳：《哈尼古歌》呈现视听盛宴



On January 5, artists from Yuanyang county, southern Yunnan's Honghe Hani and Yi autonomous prefecture, brought a show called Hani Old Song onto stage. Over the past few years, several shows themed the history and traditional culture of Hani people have been created, aiming at attracting audiences from across the province and beyond.

(Xinhua)

## 3rd trail running held in Mengla to mark new year

第三届勐腊热带雨林跨境越野赛举行



The 3rd Mengla Rainforest Cross-border Trail Running was held on December 31, 2020 to mark the new year of 2021, with the 5km titles secured by runners Ji Jiawei and Sun Siyan. After fierce competition, Ji won the title for men in a timing of 21 minutes and 46 seconds, while Sun secured the woman champion in 26 minutes and 6 seconds. The half-marathon titles went to man runner Chen Jian in one hour, 17 minutes and 13 seconds, and woman racer Zhang Chaoqun in 1:51.43. This year's race is sponsored by YOSANE, a producer of latex products. During the train running, runners appreciated the beautiful rainforest in Mengla, Yunnan's southernmost county town that borders Laos. Under the context of the Belt and Road Initiative, the trail running is conducive to people-to-people exchanges in the border area. The 2nd trail running was joined by around 700 runners from China, Japan and others.

(Yunnan Gateway)



## Residents enjoy life of peace in Changning

昌宁：在美丽县城享美好生活



Pictures taken by a Yunnan Daily correspondent on Jan. 6 show residents enjoy a peaceful life in Changning County, southwest Yunnan's Baoshan City.

In history, the Changning area

was favored by Xu Xiake, a Chinese travel writer and geographer of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) known best for his famous geographical treatise. Poet Yang Shen, a Sichuan native in the

Chinese Ming dynasty, poured his passion in Changning on harvest days, mistaking this promised land as his hometown when drunk.

(Yunnan Daily)

## Samaba terraced field presents dazzling sights in winter

“飞阅”撒玛坝梯田：白云生处，田畴万亩



The Samaba Terraced Rice Field is Located in the Baohua town of Honghe County, south Yunnan's Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture. It is 37 kilometers away from the county seat.

Scenes the Samba terrace features seasonal changes. In winter morning, the mist and clouds turn

the terraced field into a wonder land. As the weather clears up at noon, the terrace fields present visitors more dazzling sights.

As part of the Cultural Landscape of Honghe Hani Rice Terraces which was listed as World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in 2013, the Samaba rice field boasts as many

as 4,300 terraces from the altitude of 600 to 1,800 meters.

Covering a total area of 2,636 acres, the terraced rice field has been recognized as the largest in China by Shanghai Great World Guinness Office.

(Xinhua)

## Rare pied hornbills spotted in Yunnan

新纪录！冠斑犀鸟现身龙陵县

Four rare Malabar pied hornbills have been spotted at a nature reserve in southwest China's Yunnan province, according to local authorities.

The Xiaoheishan Provincial Nature Reserve in Longling County said the birds were sighted by researchers during a

field study in the nature reserve last October and have recently been identified as Malabar pied hornbills.

Han Lianxian, a zoologist with the Southwest Forestry University, said the hornbills have a scarce population and mainly inhabit evergreen broad-leaved

forests in southwest China, feeding on fruits and insects.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classified the bird as a near-threatened species on the Red List of Threatened Species.

(Xinhua)

## Animals in Yunnan enjoy delicacies on Laba eve

动物也“过”腊八节



Animals in the Yunnan Wildlife Park enjoyed special delicacies on January 19, the eve of the Laba Festival, which falls on the eighth day of the 12th month of the lunar Chinese calendar (Jan. 20 this year).

Celebrated animals in the park, including raccoons, orangutans, red pandas and zebras, got their festive meals one after another. And they all enjoyed the Laba treat immensely.

“For the coming Laba Festival, we have grapes and nuts for monkeys, fruits and porridge for raccoons, and grass and vegetables for zebras,” said a staff member with the Kunming-based wildlife park.

(Yunnan Gateway)

## 500 lady Amherst pheasants flock to Nianhu lake

500 余只白腹锦鸡“扎堆”会泽念湖



A record high of 500 lady Amherst pheasants gathered in the Nianhu lake area, northeast Yunnan's Huize county, for wintering, according to the latest statistics from a local nature reserve.

“Recently, we have seen an increasing awareness of bird-protection among the public. With improved eco-environment, the number of bird species in the area has been on the rise,” said a staff member with the Huize National Nature Reserve for Black-Necked Cranes.

The lady Amherst pheasant is a bird species under the second-class state protection in China. Amazingly beautiful in feather, the bird mostly feeds on crops, grass seeds and others.

(Yunnan Gateway)



# Travel to Lincang by bullet train

## 坐上高铁游临沧

□ 段建鑫 张琳 文

Reporting by Duan Jianxin and Zhang Lin; Trans-editing by Wang Shixue



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On December 30, 2020, the Dali-Lincang Railway was put into operation, ending the Lincang history without train services. After the opening, the Kunming-Lincang tour is cut to three hours and 37 minutes, six hours shorter than the traditional coach ride.

Located in southwest Yunnan, Lincang City is rich in resources for cultural tourism. It is home to the ancient Wengding village of the mysterious Wa ethnic group, the rock painting created thousands of years ago and the Lushi old town, a key stop on the Ancient Tea-Horse Road. However, local tourism development used to be restricted by poor transport facilities and the scenic areas were not well-connected. As a result, Lincang was visited by less tourist groups. Now, the Dali-Lincang Railway has formed a new access, allowing more tourists to see the exotic sights and customs in the city.

2020年12月30日，大临铁路正式开通运营，云南省临沧市结束不通铁路历史。大临铁路开通后，昆明至临沧仅需3小时37分，较公路运输缩短6小时左右。

临沧旅游文化资源丰富，拥有神秘古老的翁丁佤寨、距今两三千多年前创作的崖画、茶马古道上的重要驿站——鲁史古镇……但在过去，交通瓶颈制约了临沧旅游业的发展，导致旅游团队较少、旅游景区没有形成良好串联。如今，大临铁路打开了游客进入临沧的新通道，让临沧原本养在深闺人未识的文化旅游资源走进更多人的视野。

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At 10:00 a.m. on December 30, 2020, a D8128 Hexie bullet train carrying 690 passengers slowly pulled out of the Lincang Station, putting into operation the Dali-Lincang Railway.

The new railway starts from Dali City, the capital of Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture. All the way south, it passes through Weishan County and Nanjian County in the prefecture, crosses the Lancang River and enters Lincang City via Yun County. With a design speed of 160 kilometers per hour, the line is 201 kilometers in length. Following the opening, the Lincang-Dali tour is shortened to one hour and 37 minutes, with Lincang-Kunming tour to three hours and 37 minutes.

Named after the nearby Lancang River, Lincang abounds in cultural-tourist resources. It is home to the Wengding Wa village, the Cangyuan rock painting and the misty Wa mountains among other tourist attractions. Lincang has

won the titles of “National Forest City”, “Chinese City of Eternal Spring”, “Home to the Yunnan Black Tea” and “World’s Town of Wa Ethnic Group”. Also, Lincang is a major producer of the Pu’er Tea and China’s top base for black-tea production.

Restricted by poor transport facilities, Lincang was visited by less tourist groups. Now, the Dali-Lincang Railway has formed new access, allowing more tourists to see the exotic sights and customs in the city. “In the past, tourists would give up trying at the thought of Lincang’s poor transport conditions, even if they had planned a Lincang tour,” said Hu Liping, deputy director of the Lincang Bureau of Culture and Tourism. “Now that the railway is put into service, a Lincang-Kunming tour is cut to a matter of a little over three hours, allowing more people to visit the Lincang area.”





## Wengding village: A mysterious Wa settlement

翁丁佤寨：云雾中的神秘村落



The blue sky and white clouds over the village reminds us of the oil paintings by Vincent van Gogh. Across Wengding, none of the houses is built out of bricks or tiles, and all the rooms are well-ventilated. Arrays of thatched houses form a spectacular sight. The Wa girls are running stalls outside homes or dipping themselves into music, while lovely kids are having fun playing together. Such picturesque scenes are quite visible in the Wengding village, Lincang's Cangyuan County.

In the Wa ethnic language, Wengding means a mist-shrouded place. Built on a mountain slope, the Wa settlement is surrounded by thick forest. Wandering around the misty village, visitors would catch sight of the century-old village gate and a towering banyan tree, both reminders of the mysterious Wa village with a history of hundreds of years.

Among other things, the bull skulls hanging on the Banyan tree and gate pillars are the most impressive, giving off a looming sense of mysteriousness. Entering the gate, we came to a square where stood a few stumps with bull skulls. Then, we were greeted by the imposing thatched houses in the mist.

The grandest house in the village is residence of the Wa King, where the chief of Wengding lives. As the most respected in the village, the chief came into being via an old hereditary system. Walking along the trails, we came across Wa houses in differed types, of which the wood and bamboo-rail house is dotted by bull skulls both inside and out-

side. In general, the thatched houses in Wengding are beautiful for you could never sense their shabbiness. Here, the thatch is sort of a decoration, and taken from any perspective, it gives off an air of plainness and naturalness.

In Wengding, houses fall into two categories: one-storey houses and two-storey ones. The one-storey houses are for singles such as the unmarried adults or the widows/widowers, while the two-storey ones are more common, with the family living upstairs and livestock downstairs. In addition, each Wa family has a grain-storage room somewhere near the village.

In welcoming visitors, the pretty Wa girls swing their hair warmly when singing and dancing, and they also offer wine or tea to the visitors after the hair dance. On certain occasions, visitors could join the Wa Lamu drum activity. According to Li Hua, head of the Wengding Villagers' Committee, the Lamu-drum event is a key folk custom of Wa ethnic group. As a Wa symbol, the drum is something holy for the folks. During the Lamu-drum event, folks cut a tree in the forest outside, pulled it into the village, and make a new drum to replace the old one. Interestingly, they divide the wooden drums into the male ones and the female ones. The male drum makes has short and low sounds, while the female drum features a longer and higher pitch. The wooden drums can only be played on grand festivities like offering a tribute, and each village has a designated room to store the drums.





## Cangyuan rock painting: An oldest Chinese art

沧源崖画：中国最古老的崖画之一

Located in Cangyuan County, Lincang City, the Cangyuan rock painting is one of the oldest Chinese art forms. The latest studies show the painted pieces were created 2,700 to 3,800 years ago.

The pieces of hematite paints are created on the limestone rocks at 17 sites. Adding up to 540 square meters, the 1,200 painted figures involve scenes of hunting, dancing, war, gathering, buildings and villages.

“The cliff pictures fully mirror the primitive living conditions of the Wa forefathers, looking plain, vivid and lifelike,” said Wang Ningsheng, a professor with the Institute of History, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences.

In drawing human figures, bodies are rendered into inverted triangles, while the arms and legs are formed by flexible fine lines. The artists employ the gestures and head decorations to display the production and living activities of the Wa ancestors. The heads of humans and animals are rendered into dots, without much details of ears, eyes, or mouth. Certain animal pictures show their nose, horns and tails.

Researchers say the Cangyuan cliff pictures can be directly used as data in studying the ancient history, religion, culture and art of south-west China and Southeast Asia at large. The vivid pictures recorded the ancient social events, life styles, folk customs and more.



## Lushi old town: Key stop on Ancient Tea-Horse Road

鲁史古镇：茶马古道上的重要驿站

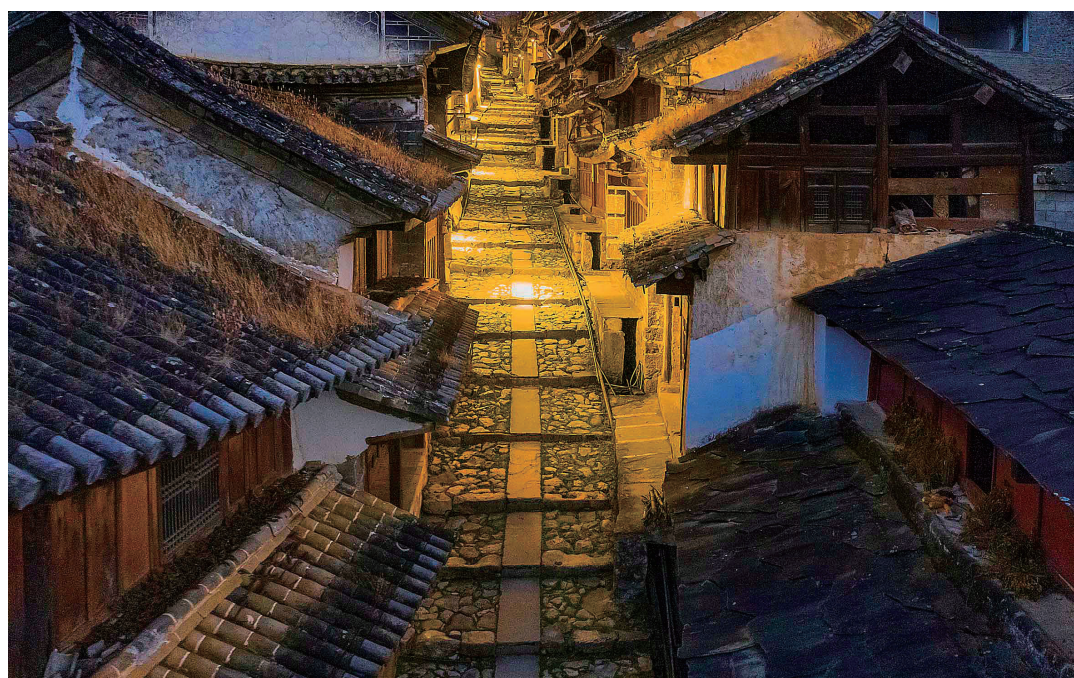
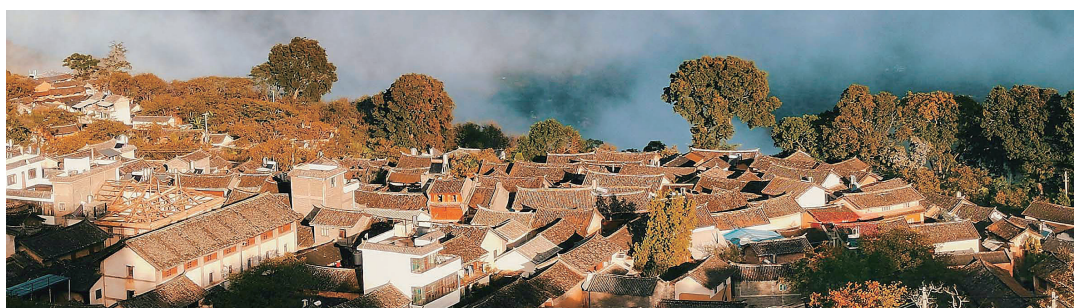
With a strategic location of hard access, Lushi old town hides itself deep into the mountains adjacent to the county town of Fengqing in Lincang city. A key stop on Ancient Tea-Horse Road, Lushi is a major fortress in west Yunnan.

Walking into the old town, visitors are impressed by the uneven prints of horseshoes left by the ancient caravans. The old roads are coupled by buildings with the residential styles of Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Dali. Ruins of the Sichuan-Guizhou guild hall remained there, a reminder of the prosperous scenes in days gone by.

The most bustling place in Lushi is the Sifang Square. There, seniors gather for chats on sunny days, playful kids have fun on the streets, and visitors from afar unveil the mysterious old town via listening to talks by the aged. During the Spring Festival and others, operas are staged by invited troupes.

Strolling at dusk on the Lushi alleys, we finally entered a quiet little restaurant for some fried tofu. “Now the roads are equipped with street lamps, brightening the old town when darkness falls,” said the owner surnamed Huang. As more tourists arrive in the town, we cannot supply them enough food at times.” Over the years, Lushi has built up a trade center, a tourist center, a parking lot, a belvedere and others. A brand new tourist town is in creation, featuring cultures of the ancient Tea-Horse Road.

Youngsters are said to have ceased to be migrant workers. Instead, they returned home to be truck drivers, store owners or others. Some have earned money, enough to build up villas in new urban areas. They live upstairs, with downstairs left for business activities. The scenes of people loading and horse transporting are getting rarer, while cars and motorcycles are almost everywhere. As locals bettered off, the ancient Tea-Horse Road is brought back to life.





# Angelic tunes from Xiaoshuijing choir

## 来自小水井的天籁之音

□ 杨秀杰 / 文

Reporting by Yang Xiujie; Trans-editing by Wang Shixue



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The Xiaoshuijing Miao Farmers' Choir in central Yunnan's Fumin county was established in 2002, all members being the Miao farmers in the village. Before the choir came into being, the villagers had formed their own singing style that fuses western music into the Miao culture. Whichever stage they stepped onto, the choir members have stuck to the founding mission: to show it to the world that singing is more an indispensable part in life than a pastime or a belief.

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来自云南省昆明市富民县的小水井苗族农民合唱团成立于2002年，成员全部是小水井村的苗族农民。在合唱团成立之前，村民们就有着自己独特的唱歌风格，他们将西方音乐与苗族文化融合，形成了自己独特的唱法。无论走上多大的舞台，他们唱歌的初心始终如一。他们用歌声向世界证明，唱歌不仅仅是一种消遣、一种信仰，更是生活中不可剥离的一部分。

The Xiaoshuijing Miao Farmers' Choir recently joined hands with famed pianist Lang Lang on stage, performing the English ballad Scarborough Fair. With vigorous singing, the choir made a hit and won praise from international media, saying the Xiaoshuijing choir brought to them some most melodious tunes from China.

The Xiaoshuijing choir was established in 2002, and the members are mostly busy with farming, singing only in leisure. The farmers did not receive professional training, but they managed to pass down the singing skills from generation to generation, without musical notations, accompaniment or literature records. Since its inception, the Xiaoshuijing choir has staged performances outside China, showing the talent of Yunnan farmers with an angel-like voice.

Chatting with the choir members on their daily life, one can see the musical group has grown to be a world-famous troupe from a rustic choir. In almost two decades, the Xiaoshuijing farmers have shown it to the world that singing is more something indispensable in life than a pastime or a belief.



## Onto stages overseas

走上世界的舞台

On ordinary days without performances, members of the Xiaoshuijing choir are all farmers of the Fumin village. They only sing on Sundays as choir members, with their age ranging from 15 to 50 years old. "I listened to my parents singing in my childhood, and got used to it," recalled Zhang Shiming, a choir member.

"It's quite beyond me that they received no professional training," wowed the visitors. "Singing by the folks is just amazing." In recently years, droves of outsiders flocked to Xiaoshuijing just for a look at their show, during which the viewers took pictures and videos, sharing the music on WeChat moments.

However, some visitors may not know that the choir has already stepped onto the stages in the UK and the US, in addition to those in Beijing, Shanghai and other Chinese cities. In February 2018, the Xiaoshuijing Miao chorus was invited to the New York-based Lincoln Center for the "Chinese New Year Concert". And it became the first Chinese chorus to jointly stage a show with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. Later, the choir staged another show at the London-based Royal Festival Hall, performing the Yunnan folk song of A Running Brook, the world-renowned Choral Fantasy in C Minor and others.

## Music from the fields

从土地里“长出”的歌声

In Xiaoshuijing, singing is as natural as talking, and even the babbling kids pick up some easy tunes in the villagers' singing.

In October 2003, the Xiaoshuijing choir joined in the First Chorus Festival in West China. It was the first time for the choir to take part in a major contest, and Zhang Qiongxian, then a 17-year-old member of the singing group, also made her debut. Zhang will never forget the singing contest where her choir made a hit. In the ensuing years, the choir joined in national chorus competitions annually, gaining increasing recognition. Meanwhile, the 60-member singing group from Yunnan has given rise to a cultural phenomenon: the audience is deeply impressed by the plain but authentic voice.

Having gained fame, the choir also improved its members' living conditions, helping more juniors in the village to achieve their dream. Now, the Xiaoshuijing village is frequented by streams of tourists, but the villagers still stick to the founding mission: to sing.

## One-family inheritance

一家人的传承

Long Guangyun, incumbent conductor of the Xiaoshuijing choir, is a plain farmer. "Simply, we come here for singing," said Long at a national singing competition. In a shy voice, the Miao man uttered some touching words.

Following his graduation from a junior high school in 1987, Long returned home and he had more time to be with music. Talented and hard-working, Long began to work as conductor at the age of 18. In his 3-decade career, he taught himself, trying his own ways for explanation and

expression. In his view, singing is like living. So long as you're hopeful, so long lives this.

Long's wife is also a member of the singing group. Following their marriage, she volunteered to quit from the choir to focus on housework. However, the woman didn't really give up, and she still sings at home. "We hardly ever argue with each other," said Long. "Whenever there is a problem, we just sing, and then everything is OK." Long Shimei, daughter of Long Guangyun, grows up in the parents' music, and now she is also on the choir.

## World with shared music

用音乐连结世界

In Xiaoshuijing, Long's family pattern is something typical. On stage, they are close singing mates. At home, they assume their individual role as fathers, mothers, sons, or daughters.

As a bond of magic, singing links up family members, families and the world at large. In February 2018, the Xiaoshuijing choir's tour to the US and the UK won endless praises from international audience.

During the 16-day performing tour, the choir made some breakthroughs: stepping on international stages, singing in English all the time, and joining hands with the Philharmonic Orchestra on the stage. While its members take pride in these, the singing group also made Yunnan better known to the world.

For the choir members, these gains are like seeds rooted in the heart, from where something more beautiful will surely come.





# Binchuan: Passing down overseas flavors

宾川：“侨味”的传承接力

□ 李晓琳 / 文

Writing by Li Xiaolin; trans-editing by Wang Shixue

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Located in west Yunnan's Binchuan County, Liujiawan is a well-known community of returned overseas Chinese in China, with its residents being mostly returned overseas Chinese and their off-springs from Vietnam, Indonesia and others in the 1950s to 1970s. Since China began reform and opening-up in 1978, policies benefiting the returned overseas Chinese have been introduced. Based on their experiences in conducting business, the returned ones run restaurants of the ASEAN flavors.

云南省大理白族自治州宾川县柳家湾华侨社区是中国知名侨乡之一，居民几乎都是 20 世纪六七十年代从越南、印尼等国回来的归侨及其后代。1978 年中国改革开放以来，不少归侨在国家政策的支持下，依托自己在东南亚做小生意的经验，经营起了东南亚美食餐饮业务。

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Foods carry one's own culture and sentiments. Now the food culture of the returnees has been passed down in the village for two generations, be it Ms. Sai's Garden of Exotic Vietnamese Flavor run by the whole family, or the Erdui Café set up by Xian Jinhua 35 years ago. As time goes by, the ups and downs of the returned overseas Chinese and their families are now epitomized into a tableful of exotic dishes, or a glass of the aromatic Erdui coffee.

饮食是文化和情感的寄托。如今，无论是越南归侨赛姐一家经营的赛姐侨味园，还是冼锦华 35 年前创办的“二对咖啡”，归侨餐饮文化的传承已经经历了两代人的接力，他们生活的变迁体现在了一桌子“侨乡菜”里，也浓缩在一杯醇香的咖啡里。



At the year end, weddings were going on in the Liujiawan overseas Chinese community in west Yunnan's Binchuan county. Ms. Sai, aged 62, is a famed chef in the area, and as a returned Chinese from Vietnam, she was invited to the marrying families to arrange the feasts. Braised pork with preserved vegetable, spring roll, fried beef with pineapple are distinct local dishes with ASEAN flavors, which have somehow increased the county town's fame and exoticness.

From 1950s to 1970s, returned Chinese from Indonesia, India, Myanmar, Vietnam and others got settled in some Binchuan farms for returnees. Now, around 8,000 returned overseas Chinese and their relatives live in the area, and they maintain contacts with friends in 25 countries and regions, such as the US, Canada, and Singapore, as well as China's Hong Kong and Macao.

In China, Liujiawan is a well-known community of returned overseas Chinese. Built in January 1958, it was first called the farm of Taihe, or supreme harmony. And the settlers were mostly the overseas Chinese and their relatives returned from Vietnam and Indonesia in the 1960s and 1970s.

In 1978, 20-year-old Ms. Sai moved to Binchuan from Vietnam, together with her parents. As China quickened its reform and opening-up and introduced series of policies benefiting the returned overseas Chinese, life for the returned families bettered off. "I rely on the country and myself," said Sai. Since the returned ones mostly had experience in conducting businesses, they ran restaurants of the ASEAN flavors after farming.

Ms. Sai learned to cook the delicacies in her childhood, for her mom was a master hand in Vietnamese dishes. "My son and daughter also both followed my step to be a cook," Sai said with pride. In 2014, the family opened a Vietnamese restaurant in their court yard — Ms. Sai's Garden of Exotic Flavor. The dishes are favored by both locals and visitors, some of whom come from Kunming or even outside Yunnan. While tasting the overseas dishes, they also learn about the history of the communities of returned overseas Chinese.

"Foods carry one's own culture and sentiments," said Du Xiaoxia, Sai's daughter. While chatting with the guests, Du finished making a plateful of spring rolls adeptly. In her view, to pass down

the exotic dishes is to retain the most authentic flavors, while preserving the special memories of the communities for the returned Chinese. Du disclosed that someone wanted to join in the business, but they turned down the offer. "Outsiders cannot really focus on our overseas tradition."

Now, the exotic flavors have become a signature of Binchuan. Hanging around the county town, visitors can at times come across the restaurants by returned overseas Chinese, where a diversity of accents can be heard. "Besides tasting the overseas dishes, they can also sip the Erdui/two-pair coffee," said Du Xiaoxia.

Drinking coffee is a tradition from the forefathers who used to live in Southeast Asia. In 1985, Xian Jinhua, an overseas Chinese returned from Vietnam, opened a little canteen selling Vietnamese breakfast. Xian loves drinking coffee, and whenever other returned Chinese came over for breakfast, he would share with them his home-baked coffee, which unexpectedly gained popularity. Since then, he began to run the Erdui Café.

At the outdoors café, coffee is by no means a signature of taste or elegance. Rather, it represents a deep-rooted habit and a heartfelt sentiment. Xian's coffee is fired by charcoal and adopts the drip method. It is quite hot in Binchuan, so ice cubes are put into coffee glasses to ward off the heat. And it used to be a great pleasure for the overseas farmers to drink an iced coffee at Erdui Café, when they returned from the fields.

35 years on, the farm, where the café is located, has seen dramatic changes, but the unique coffee flavor remains popular as ever. Years ago, Xian Lianyou and his brother, sons of Xian Jinhua, took over Erdui Café, adopting new business modes. In response to the needs of younger customers, the brothers added pizza and steak to their menu. "In spite of this, the iced coffee remains to be the most popular," said Xian Lianyou. Each priced at 12 yuan, it is still our specialty.

Times change, and so do the coffee drinkers. However, the café sticks to better inheritance by keeping up with times. "Mostly, coffee drinkers are sipping in their stories or sentiments."

As time goes by, the ups and downs of the returned overseas Chinese and their families are now epitomized into a tableful of exotic dishes, or a glass of the aromatic Erdui coffee.







# A special taste of toon sprouts

## 香椿的独特滋味

□ 徐华陵 李丹 张延江 文 / 图

Reporting by Xu Hualing, Li Dan and Zhang Yanjiang; Trans-editing by Wang Shixue

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In Yunnan, toon sprouts are called a vegetable on the tree. As a seasonal flavor, the tender toon leaves can either be steamed, fried, boiled, stir-mixed, cured or deep fried. Popular dishes involve fried egg with toon, fried pork with toon, toon cold-dressed with sauce, and more. In Huangcaoba of Qianwei Town, central Yunnan's Yuxi city, the four-season toon sprouts even in winter. Short of supply, the winter toon is priced at 68 yuan per kilogram.

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在云南，香椿被称作“树上蔬菜”，是地道的时令野蔬。香椿的吃法很多，蒸、炒、炆、拌、腌、炸都可以。其中，香椿炒鸡蛋、香椿炒肉、凉拌香椿是最受欢迎的吃法。在云南省玉溪市江川区前卫镇黄草坝，有一种名为“四季椿”的香椿，在冬天仍然可以采摘。冬季采摘的椿芽，价格在每公斤 68 元左右，供不应求。



In Yunnan, the Chinese toon sprouts, or tender leaves, are called a vegetable on the tree. They are typically a seasonal flavor. In winter, tender toon leaves grow out of the branches, stirring the diner's appetite with red color and strong aroma. Based on regional differences and diners' tastes, the toon sprouts can either be steamed, fried, boiled, stir-mixed, cured or deep fried.

Recently, toon trees are giving off a luring smell in Huangcaoba of Qianwei Town, central Yunnan's Yuxi city. Sprout clusters with red luster are visible on arrays of toon trees, sending visitors a sort of misleading message that spring has already come.

“The toon is a four-season tree, sprouting even in winter. The low temperature caused the shoots to grow a bit more slowly, and I pick the sprouts once four days, each harvest weighing around 20 kilograms,” said Dong Wei, a local toon grower. “Short of supply now, the winter toon sprout is priced at 68 yuan per kilogram.

Dong Wei is not only a master hand in toon growing, but also an outstanding cook in toon dishes. “The tender sprouts can be cooked in different ways: fried, steamed, cold dressed, or else,” said Dong. “In general, though, the popular dishes are fried egg with toon, fried pork with toon, toon cold-dressed with sauce, toon with braised chicken or duck.”

In making fried egg with toon, the sprouts are first washed and cut into tiny bits, with two broken eggs stirred into even liquid. Then, put into a wok some cooking oil, pour the egg liquid when the oil is heated, and add the cut toon bits. Finally, keep stir-frying for a while till the reddish toon bits turn green. In cold-dressing toon, the cleaned red sprouts are first cooked in boiling water for two minutes. When looking green, the sprouts are fished up and cut into segments, to which vinegar, salt, red pepper, Sichuan pepper are added. Mix up the ingredients, and a cool toon dish will come into being.

“I've also tried a brand new dish called toon splashed by oil,” said Dong, adding it's not so hard. First, cut the sprouts into fine bits, and put into a bowl the toon leave bits, the stem-bit layer and the layer of salt, garlic and peppers. Second, scoop some heated oil and pour it onto the ingredients, giving off sizzling tunes and a strong aroma. In the end, stir-mix the ingredients evenly, and a tea spoon of the mixture will occupy your taste bud for quite a while.



# Again, horse bells heard in the valley

## 峡谷又闻马铃声

□ 李晓琳 文

Reporting by Li Xiaolin; Trans-editing by Wang Shixue

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Under the help of local authorities, Wuli rolled out eco-tours and total tours, tapping its tourist resource to the fullest. Thanks to the pastoral sights in dreamy mist, as well as its plain but natural lifestyle, visitors came into the village in droves.

Now, Wuli Village is the only national model for preservation of cultural relics in Gongshan County. As tourism grows, more materials are needed. Later, folks raised strong horses and formed a “modern caravan”. Horse bells are heard in the Nujiang valley once more.

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在当地政府支持下，怒江大峡谷深处的雾里村发展起了生态游、乡村游，得天独厚的自然资源、云雾缭绕的田园风光、“与世隔绝”的朴素生活引来了络绎不绝的游客。

如今，雾里村现存的茶马古道已成为怒江州贡山县唯一一个国家级文物保护单位。随着旅游发展，村里越来越多人家开始养马做运输，组成一支“现代马帮”，马铃声又重新响彻大峡谷。



Following a rain storm, rolling torrents were “roaring” in the grand Nu River valley. As faint jingles of horse bells got increasingly clearer, Li Dehua, a 36-year-old Nu man, showed up. He came from the nearby Wuli/misty village, together with his caravan.

“Make way, be quiet and don’t use your flash,” exclaimed Li, sending visitors vocal messages in advance.

“What are you doing?” a tourist asked.

“Carrying sandy stones for road building.”

On the horse road to Wuli Village, visitors brushed past Li’s horses, whose jingles faded away in distance.

Located in the Bingzhongluo town of Gongshan County, northwest Yunnan’s Nujiang Prefecture, Wuli Village used to be an impoverished area. Hidden into one of the world’s deepest valleys, the area features rugged terrain and wild rivers.

Before the founding of the PRC, local

folks had to walk a long way to meet each other, crossed the river via zip lines, and transported goods with man or horse. In the Wuli village, the only access to the outside was a horse trail carved out of cliffs. It is part of the Ancient Tea-Horse Road.

As Chinese authorities stepped up efforts to rid of poverty in recent years, an increasing number of talents, materials and investments gathered at the river valley, bringing hope to locals.

Under the help of local authorities, Wuli rolled out eco-tours and rural tours, tapping its tourist resources to the fullest. Thanks to the pastoral sights in dreamy mist, as well as its plain but natural lifestyle, visitors came into the village in droves.

Now, Wuli Village is the only national model for preservation of cultural relics in Gongshan County. To keep the historic trail intact, Wuli has built up new access to the village: another horse road with a

suspension bridge.

Li Dehua saw a business opportunity in the new facility. “As tourism grows, more materials are needed. Since the road is not wide enough for vehicles, horses would be helpful.” In 2018, Li raised five transporting horses in the village, earning over 10,000 yuan within a year. Later, more folks joined Li in raising strong horses, and they formed a modern caravan. Next, Li will renovate his wooden house into a pastoral inn. He plans to pick up guests with the horses, offering them direct rides to the inn.

Times do change, and the ancient caravans faded out of sight. Amid local tourism development, however, horse bells can be heard in the Nujiang valley once more. Missions of the caravan drivers vary from time to time, but the valley folks’ pursuit for a better life remains unchanged, just like the ever-roaring Nu River.





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