July Spectacular Landscapes! Fascinating Cultures and Tibetan Highlands
Discover the
experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure.

It will be late summer with midday temperatures in the 70s. The expedition will be at a leisurely pace suitable for discovery.

Most days on winding mountain roads, up over a 12,000+ feet elevation. The landscape at Yading is powerfully scenic and ecologically significant. Mountains of limestone approach 20,000 feet in elevation; their glaciated elevations, nor engage in sustained activity this high. Some days we will drive and take short walks at elevations that may exceed 14,000 feet, although we do not intend to spend long periods of time at these elevations, nor engage in sustained activity this high. The higher elevation areas will come later, after we have had some time to acclimatize.

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Dear Travelers:

The Tibetans could learn each others’ contrasting ways. The same message is carved repeatedly, hypnotically, into the rock. The landscape at Yading is powerfully scenic and ecologically significant. Mountains of limestone approach 20,000 feet in elevation; their glaciated elevations, nor engage in sustained activity this high. Some days we will drive and take short walks at elevations that may exceed 14,000 feet, although we do not intend to spend long periods of time at these elevations, nor engage in sustained activity this high. The higher elevation areas will come later, after we have had some time to acclimatize.

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Discover the Tibetan Highlands of Sichuan
A Backroads Journey to Fascinating Cultures & Spectacular Landscapes! July 8–21, 2016

Dear Travelers,

The Tibetan Highlands of Sichuan are a remote corner of China, with a network of backroads that impart a constant sense of discovery. Rivers, plunging toward Sichuan, have created a labyrinth of gorges and snow-capped peaks with stunning landscapes, diverse alpine habitats, and superb opportunities for cultural insight.

This summer we will travel overland from the metropolitan of Chengdu, cultural center of Sichuan, to the Tibetans’ kora, a cultural hub of eastern Tibet, we will traverse the sacred circle of peaks much more easily than Joseph Rock did. Our journey will culminate amid the sacred plateaus of Yading and the sacred peaks of Konkaling. The riverside towns along our route, with fantastic skies, clear mountain air, and huge variations in altitude, are extremely conducive to photography, with half the year’s flora in bloom. While in the town of Litang, which is more than 13,000 feet above sea level, we will have ample opportunity to explore. No smoking in vehicles; during lectures, or meals please.)

What to Expect:
- 12 days, 12 nights
- Beichuan, Xiangning, Litang, Kangding, Hongxiong, Xizang, Litang, Beichuan
- Custom vehicles;
- Particles of the Western Plateau;
- Dramatic natural landscapes;
- Alpine ecosystems;
- Traditional Tibetan culture;
- Wildlife;
- Transportation;
- Accommodations;
- Meals;
- Entrance fees;
- Tips to local guides and drivers;
- Airfare and Airline Ticketing;
- Insurance;
- Land transport;
- Group airport transfers;
- Accommodations;
- Breakfasts;
- All meals;
- Entrance fees;
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- Insurance;
- Land transport;
- Group airport transfers;
- Accommodations;
- Breakfasts;
ITINERARY

Day 1/2 Boston to Beijing & Chengdu
Depart Boston for Beijing, arriving early evening on Day 2. Transfer to our centrally located hotel for an overnight stay, and have dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 3/4 Chengdu
Depart on a flight to Chengdu, capital of Sichuan, and one of the most centrally situated and ethnically enriched cities of China’s culture. See beautiful temples, gardens and teahouses that are famous throughout China. Enjoy a walk through the local community whose members come to worship on this day.

Day 5/6 Bifengxia Pandas
Our destination, the Tibetan town of Dawei, approximately 5 hours from Chengdu. Accommodations here will be at a pleasant family-run hotel. On arrival, we will visit the giant panda breeding center of Bifengxia. This important conservation center is the site of the first Western description of the Giant Panda. The chapel and conservation center of Bifengxia. This important conservation center is the site of the first Western description of the Giant Panda. This morning, we will visit and learn about the Giant Panda. The chapel and conservation center of Bifengxia. This important conservation center is the site of the first Western description of the Giant Panda. This morning, we will visit and learn about the Giant Panda.

Day 7/8 Dangba
Our destination, the Tibetan town of Dagebu, is about 15,400 ft. above sea level. This is a pleasant family-run hotel that overlooks the town. We will visit the ancient town situated along the trade routes out of China. Dangba is the site of an old iron bridge wrought entirely from iron, and the Konkaling sacred mountains. We will pass an area that was glaciated during the ice age (curiously, for many years, scientists believed this peak was the highest in the world, with its snow and ice preserved as elevations over 4,000 ft). The Konkaling monastery near the entrance to the valley is especially popular with Tibetan pilgrims who come here to walk around the peaks.

Day 9 Xindu
Today, we will visit the Tibetan holy sites located near to the gigantic monastery of the Konkaling sacred mountains. We will pass a area that was glaciated during the ice age (curiously, for many years, scientists believed this peak was the highest in the world, with its snow and ice preserved as elevations over 4,000 ft). The Konkaling monastery near the entrance to the valley is especially popular with Tibetan pilgrims who come here to walk around the peaks.

Day 10 Litang
Our destination, the Tibetan town of Dagebu, is about 15,400 ft. above sea level. This is a pleasant family-run hotel that overlooks the town. We will visit the ancient town situated along the trade routes out of China. Dangba is the site of an old iron bridge wrought entirely from iron, and the Konkling sacred mountains. We will pass an area that was glaciated during the ice age (curiously, for many years, scientists believed this peak was the highest in the world, with its snow and ice preserved as elevations over 4,000 ft). The Konkling monastery near the entrance to the valley is especially popular with Tibetan pilgrims who come here to walk around the peaks.

Day 11/12 Daocheng
Enjoy the Sichuan opera this evening and a festive farewell! On Day 14 take flights to Beijing and the USA. Enjoy the Sichuan opera this evening and a festive farewell! On Day 14 take flights to Beijing and the USA.

Days 13/14 Beijing & Home
We will be transferred to Beijing for flight to Chengdu. Enjoy the Sichuan opera this evening and a festive farewell! On Day 14 take flights to Beijing and the USA.

Responsibility: (new)

Travelers are advised to buy the following insurance policies: Travel Medical Insurance, Travel Cancellation Insurance, Travel Trip Interruption Insurance, Travel Theft Insurance, Airline Flight Insurance, and Car Rental Insurance. If the traveler has purchased insurance through your tour operator, please consult with your insurance provider for additional information. It is the traveler’s responsibility to ensure proper medical and personal insurance coverage is in place before departure. The traveler is solely responsible for ensuring that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the traveler and the tour operator. The traveler is solely responsible for ensuring that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the traveler and the tour operator.
Day 1/2: Jiuzhaigou to Chengdu
Depart北京时间 for Jiuzhaigou, arriving early evening.
A 3-hour transfer to the hotel for an overnight look over the sights to Chengdu orientation.
Our destination, the Jiuzhaigou town of-day, is surrounded by the very impressive Buddhist monastery, much of which is well preserved though some buildings are now a museum. Accommodations are in a pleasant family-run hotel that overlooks the town.
Today we explore the Jiuzhaigou basin, a national park of outstanding beauty, and the area’s four major waterfalls. The hike around these waterfalls is short but worth the time. The morning excursion will include a visit to the beautiful Five Flower Lake, which is sure to inspire lensmen. In the afternoon we take a leisurely stroll along the lake, where we may spot a giant panda in the wild. This is the last opportunity to see the giant panda in the wild.
Day 3: Chengdu to Yajiang
This morning, we depart from Jiuzhaigou for the加工小镇, where we will have a full day of activities and relaxation. This will be the last opportunity to capture the magnificent beauty of Jiuzhaigou, as we begin our journey to the加工小镇, where we will spend the night.
Day 4: Yajiang to Yading
Today, we will visit the Yading National Park, a site of outstanding beauty and biodiversity. The Yading National Park is home to some of the most unique and endangered species in the world, including the giant panda. We will have an opportunity to photograph these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat.
Day 5: Yading National Park to Siguniang
This morning, we will depart from Yading for the加工小镇, where we will spend the night.
Day 6: Siguniang to Xiaojin
Today, we will explore the Xiaojin region, known for its stunning natural beauty and cultural richness. We will visit several sites of interest, including the ancient city of Xiaojin, where we will have an opportunity to explore and photograph the traditional architectural style of the area.
Day 7: Xiaojin to Litang
This morning, we will depart from Xiaojin for the加工小镇, where we will spend the night.
Day 8: Litang to Bamei
Today, we will visit the beautiful town of Bamei, located in the heart of the加工小镇 region. We will explore the town and have an opportunity to photograph the traditional architecture and natural beauty of the area.
Day 9: Bamei to Tagong
Today, we will visit the Tagong region, known for its rich cultural heritage and stunning natural beauty. We will have an opportunity to explore the traditional architecture and natural beauty of the area.
Day 10: Tagong to Litang
This morning, we will depart from Tagong for the加工小镇, where we will spend the night.
Day 11: Litang to Xiaojin
Today, we will return to Xiaojin, where we will spend the night.
Day 12: Xiaojin to Bamei
Today, we will visit the beautiful town of Bamei, located in the heart of the加工小镇 region. We will explore the town and have an opportunity to photograph the traditional architecture and natural beauty of the area.
Day 13: Bamei to Litang
Today, we will visit the beautiful town of Bamei, located in the heart of the加工小镇 region. We will explore the town and have an opportunity to photograph the traditional architecture and natural beauty of the area.
Day 14: Litang to Jiuzhaigou
This morning, we will depart from Litang for the Jiuzhaigou region, where we will spend the night.
Day 15: Jiuzhaigou to Chengdu
Today, we will explore the Jiuzhaigou basin, a national park of outstanding beauty, and the area’s four major waterfalls. The hike around these waterfalls is short but worth the time. The morning excursion will include a visit to the beautiful Five Flower Lake, which is sure to inspire lensmen. In the afternoon we take a leisurely stroll along the lake, where we may spot a giant panda in the wild.
Itinerary

Day 1-2: Boston to Beijing & Chengdu

Depart Boston for Beijing, arriving early evening on Day 2. Transfer to the voucher-expired lodging and overnight in Beijing.

Day 3-5: Chengdu

Depart on a flight to Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province and one of the richest and most historically influential cities in China. See beautiful temples and gardens and enjoy a pleasant family-friendly lunch that overlooks the town.

Day 5: Chengdu to Ya’an

Today, we visit the Yarrong Gorge, a forested tributary of the Yalong River, one of the highest in the world, with steps down and steps up, offering fantastic views. We’ll continue down the river toward Bifengxia. The holy cows and bulls are very friendly, and we’ll enjoy another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the edge of the town. After lunch, we visit the Bifengxia Panda Research Center, where we’ll have a chance to see a few giant pandas in their natural environments. After another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the entrance to the town, we’ll drive to Ya’an for our flight to Lhasa.

Day 7: Lhasa

Today, we’ll fly to Zangxhai, a Tibetan town near the Yarlung Zangbo Gorge, the holy cows and bulls are very friendly, and we’ll enjoy another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the edge of the town. After lunch, we visit the Yarlung Zangbo Gorge, a forested tributary of the Yalong River, one of the highest in the world, with steps down and steps up, offering fantastic views. We’ll continue down the river toward Bifengxia. The holy cows and bulls are very friendly, and we’ll enjoy another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the edge of the town. After lunch, we visit the Bifengxia Panda Research Center, where we’ll have a chance to see a few giant pandas in their natural environments. After another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the entrance to the town, we’ll drive to Ya’an for our flight to Lhasa.

Day 8: Lhasa to Tibet

On Day 8, we’ll fly to Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, and enjoy a pleasant family-friendly lunch at the entrance to the town. After lunch, we visit the Bifengxia Panda Research Center, where we’ll have a chance to see a few giant pandas in their natural environments. After another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the entrance to the town, we’ll drive to Ya’an for our flight to Lhasa.

Day 9: Lhasa to Kangding

Today, we’ll drive to Kangding, a Tibetan town near the Yarlung Zangbo Gorge, the holy cows and bulls are very friendly, and we’ll enjoy another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the edge of the town. After lunch, we visit the Yarlung Zangbo Gorge, a forested tributary of the Yalong River, one of the highest in the world, with steps down and steps up, offering fantastic views. We’ll continue down the river toward Bifengxia. The holy cows and bulls are very friendly, and we’ll enjoy another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the edge of the town. After lunch, we visit the Bifengxia Panda Research Center, where we’ll have a chance to see a few giant pandas in their natural environments. After another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the entrance to the town, we’ll drive to Ya’an for our flight to Lhasa.

Day 10: Kangding to Litang

Today, we’ll drive to Kangding, a Tibetan town near the Yarlung Zangbo Gorge, the holy cows and bulls are very friendly, and we’ll enjoy another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the edge of the town. After lunch, we visit the Yarlung Zangbo Gorge, a forested tributary of the Yalong River, one of the highest in the world, with steps down and steps up, offering fantastic views. We’ll continue down the river toward Bifengxia. The holy cows and bulls are very friendly, and we’ll enjoy another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the edge of the town. After lunch, we visit the Bifengxia Panda Research Center, where we’ll have a chance to see a few giant pandas in their natural environments. After another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the entrance to the town, we’ll drive to Ya’an for our flight to Lhasa.

Day 11: Litang to Bamei

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Day 12: Bamei to Yading

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Day 13: Yading National Park

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Day 14: Farewell to Lhasa

Today, we’ll fly to Beijing, arriving late afternoon. We’ll enjoy another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the edge of the town. After lunch, we visit the Yarlung Zangbo Gorge, a forested tributary of the Yalong River, one of the highest in the world, with steps down and steps up, offering fantastic views. We’ll continue down the river toward Bifengxia. The holy cows and bulls are very friendly, and we’ll enjoy another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the edge of the town. After lunch, we visit the Bifengxia Panda Research Center, where we’ll have a chance to see a few giant pandas in their natural environments. After another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the entrance to the town, we’ll drive to Ya’an for our flight to Lhasa.

Day 15: New York & Home

Today, we’ll fly to New York, arriving late afternoon. We’ll enjoy another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the edge of the town. After lunch, we visit the Yarlung Zangbo Gorge, a forested tributary of the Yalong River, one of the highest in the world, with steps down and steps up, offering fantastic views. We’ll continue down the river toward Bifengxia. The holy cows and bulls are very friendly, and we’ll enjoy another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the edge of the town. After lunch, we visit the Bifengxia Panda Research Center, where we’ll have a chance to see a few giant pandas in their natural environments. After another pleasant family-friendly lunch at the entrance to the town, we’ll drive to Ya’an for our flight to Lhasa.

Responsibility:
Betchart Expeditions Inc. and New England Wild Flower Society (NEWFS) act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motor coach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held liable.
Dear Travelers:

The Tibetan Highlands of Sichuan are a remote corner of China, with a network of back roads that impart a constant sense of discovery. Rivers, plunging toward Sichuan, have created a labyrinth of gorges and narrow cliffs with stunning landscapes, diverse Alpine habitats, and superb opportunities for cultural insight.

This summer we will travel overland from the metropolitan city of Chengdu, cultural center of Sichuan, to the sacred and serene Tibetan plateau landscapes in Western Sichuan (eastern Tibet). Our journey will culminate in Yading National Park and the sacred peaks of Konka Kang!

We will spend an introductory day in Chengdu, a city renowned for its tea houses, temple gardens, and literary traditions. Then our journey begins toward Sichuan, have created a labyrinth of gorges and narrow cliffs with stunning landscapes, diverse Alpine habitats, and superb opportunities for cultural insight.

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