



From “YunNan”

to

the “Golden-Triangle”

A Photographic Diary
of our “Special Western China Tour Series” -
March 2008

by: Yau-Sun Tong



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摄影及文字：湯友新

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

<http://photoart.chebucto.org/photonews.html>

Preface

The following images within this “**Photo-diary**” of 《From YunNan to the Golden-Triangle》 were taken with a little pocket-sized **Leica D-Lux 3** camera.

These **snapshots** are only intended **to capture** and **to document** the **events, our travel routes, the joy and fun of our tour members** during this lifetime experience of a fantastic visit to another one of the western China regions; and for our memories.

The little “point-and-shoot” **D-Lux 3** has a lot of limitations in picture taking, little performance in terms of optical quality (certainly not compared to the famed **Leica R and M** camera systems with slide-films I am so often used to and fond of using), but at the same time it poses a challenge to myself for still trying to create meaningful images with it.

High quality slide-film images taken from this tour are **not** shown in this **photo-diary**.

Some of the goals I am trying to achieve in my photography include:

- *True to the moments in nature and culture;*
- *Natural and candid;*
- *Compositionally challenge and unique;*
- *Meaningful in subjects and topics;*
- *Story telling with good impacts;*
- *Not to disturb and intrude into local human subjects' life.*

Brief intro

Gathered in *Shanghai* just after the beginning of March, I led our tour group flew to *YunNan* province, started this lifetime experience tour of
《*From YunNan to the “Golden-Triangle”*》
which was especially
designed for those who were interested in a real cultural experience
in some of the most fascinating places for unusual and
rich topics of photography and travel.

Some of the most interesting areas and cultural events in *Southwestern China’s YunNan province* were hand-picked to be arranged in this expedition, with the unique visit to the famous “*Golden-Triangle*” by the famed “*Mekong River*” in the junction of *Thailand/Myanmar/Laos*.

The following images in chronological order are intend to share the enjoyments from some of the events and highlights of our journey of this over 18 days tour – another successful one of our ongoing specially arranged
Western China Cultural/Photographic Series Tours.

My sincere appreciation and many thanks to all participants of this very special tour!

《从雲南到金三角》2008年3月“加拿大文化摄影访華考察团”摄影日志

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- *Honghe prefecture of YunNan province* (10 - 38)
- *From LanCang/Mekong River to the Golden-Triangle* (39 - 62)
- *Nujiang Canyon region / Dali township* (63 - 84)
- *ZhuJiaJiao - the historic watertown just outside Shanghai* (85 - 90)
- *Epilog* (91)

Enjoy...

Shanghai Arrival

入境上海，飞抵昆明



We started our journey by arrived and gathered
in Shanghai early on March...
A brief resting, trolling around the Bund area,
the Nanjing Road... etc.
抵达上海...





Walking along the side streets... old part of the city...
街头巷尾...





A fantastic meal for our group dinner...

A "super-dog" looking after a pet-bird companion...

A leisure evening walk, before back to our comfortable hotel resting for the next morning flight to YunNan...



*Honghe prefecture
of
YunNan province*

红河洲 民俗文化景观奇多
元阳县 梯田揽胜天下无双



In Shanghai airport... our members
had already started the "firing" ...
离开上海...



飞抵昆明...
Arrived the sunny flowery KunMing
of YunNan... what a change compared
to the bitter cold winter of Canada...



The first night in YunNan welcomed our group with a Tasty local specialty noodle dinner, accompanied with a colorful cultural performance on site...
昆明之夜，民族歌舞、“过桥米线”



Great hotel accommodation by the Jake-Lake Park...; The next morning was a good visit and a fantastic lunch in a local specialty historic museum house - 离开舒适的旅馆，到“石屏会馆”参观及午餐...



In the afternoon we headed for the HongHe region
On route past the karst landscape area on route
To MiLe country.

Arrived to our 5-star hotel in MiLe - a beautifully
layout by acres of waters all around...
hot springs... 弥勒湖泉五星酒店





Early in the morning, somewhat regrettably we left this beautiful hotel property... on our way to catch the start of a special event - the Yi minority people's annual “阿细祭火” fire-festival... the first highlight of our tour...

Villagers have already lined up in the entrance of roadsides, welcoming guests... 弥勒红万村





Inside the 红万村 village...





Lots to see and to experience...
for photography...



The unique “长街宴” long-street-banquet during the festival in the village...





All gather crowd together awaiting for the ritual,
which the traditionally selected village elders
setting the "seed-of-fire" for this coming year...
等着仪式中村里的长老们取得新一年的火种...



Hey... Keith and Barb had the best bird's-view position!



Our impressive 5-star hotel by the peaceful lakeside
in MengZi - the capital of HongHe prefecture region
蒙自 - 红河洲首府; 下榻官房五星酒店...





A view from the top of our hotel in the morning...
从官房酒店顶楼眺望蒙自市容





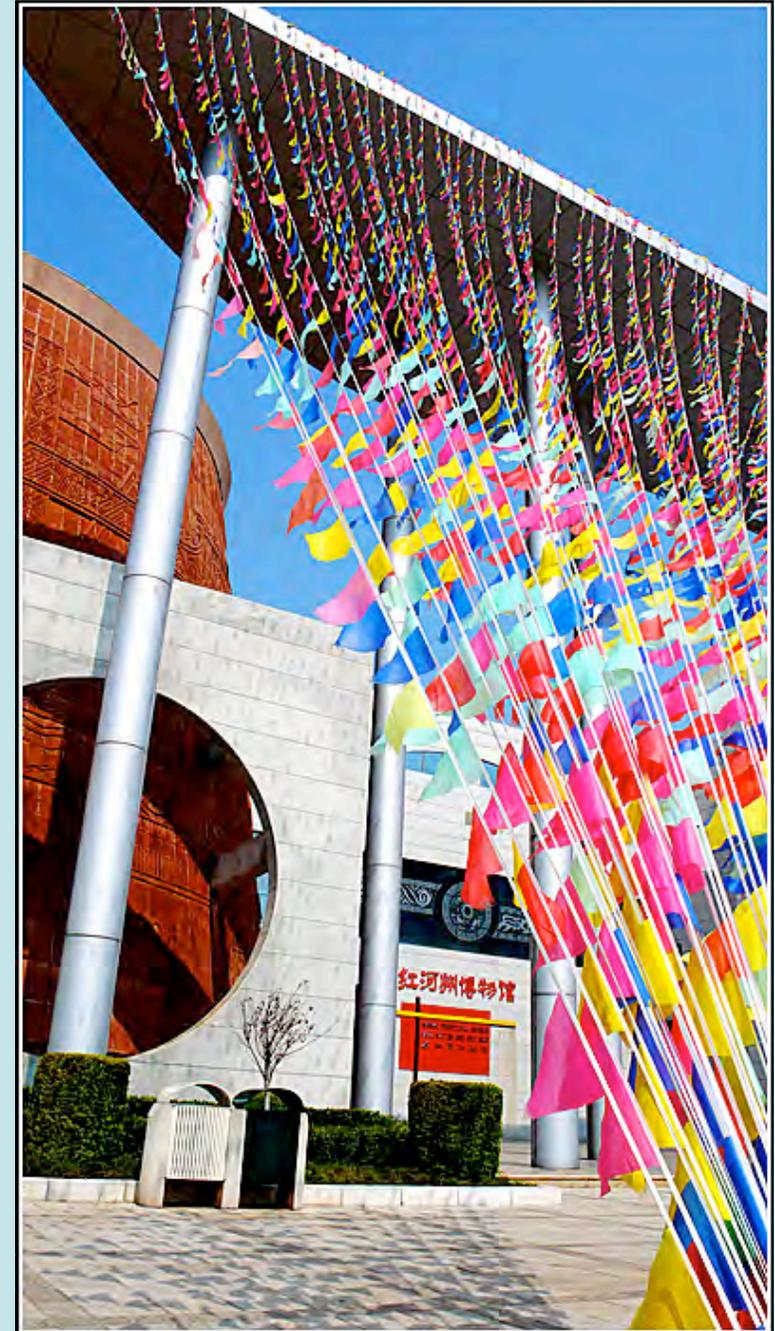
The local government building in
Mengzi... 在蒙自的州政府大楼。

We received a surprise warm welcome
while our visit to the impressive local
public library and museum...

热烈欢迎加拿大新斯科舍省哈利法
克斯市摄影家到红河采风
**Warmly welcome the photographer
group from Canada to Honghe**



The HongHe Museum was an impressive building with great varieties of artifacts and displays...





The museum visit was truly worthwhile, and should be a must for anyone visiting this far and remote interesting region... 非常值得一看的红河洲博物馆



元阳梯田... YuanYang Rice Terraces - an alluring attraction to photographers of all sorts... Here is the BEST place to see rice terraces... period! You got to experience for your own Eyes to understand...



However the people of the region are as attractive as the terraces themselves...

HongHe is a HaNi/Yi Minorities Autonomous Region... 红河哈尼族彝族自治州



We also took a chance visited
a "han-dai" minority village by
the "Red-river" ...
红河旁的旱傣村子



An overnight stay in the famous "world capital of tin" - GeJiu city, enabled us visited the artistic craftsmanship Of tin products making... 著名的锡都 - 个旧市

And an evening of eye-opening and enjoyment in Mrs. He's charming Pu-er Tea shop...

何老师家的摄影艺术茶庄，何太太在烹普洱茶招待我们...



On route from YuanYang to Jiangcheng county,
passing by LvChun... 元阳往江城路上， 途经绿春...





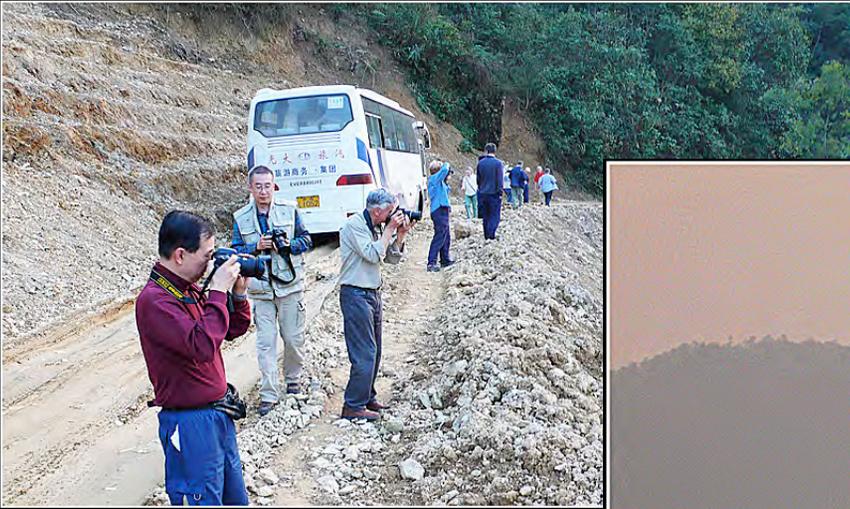
On route to JiangCheng...



Interesting subjects all along our
route to JiangCheng HaNi/Yi
Autonomous County...

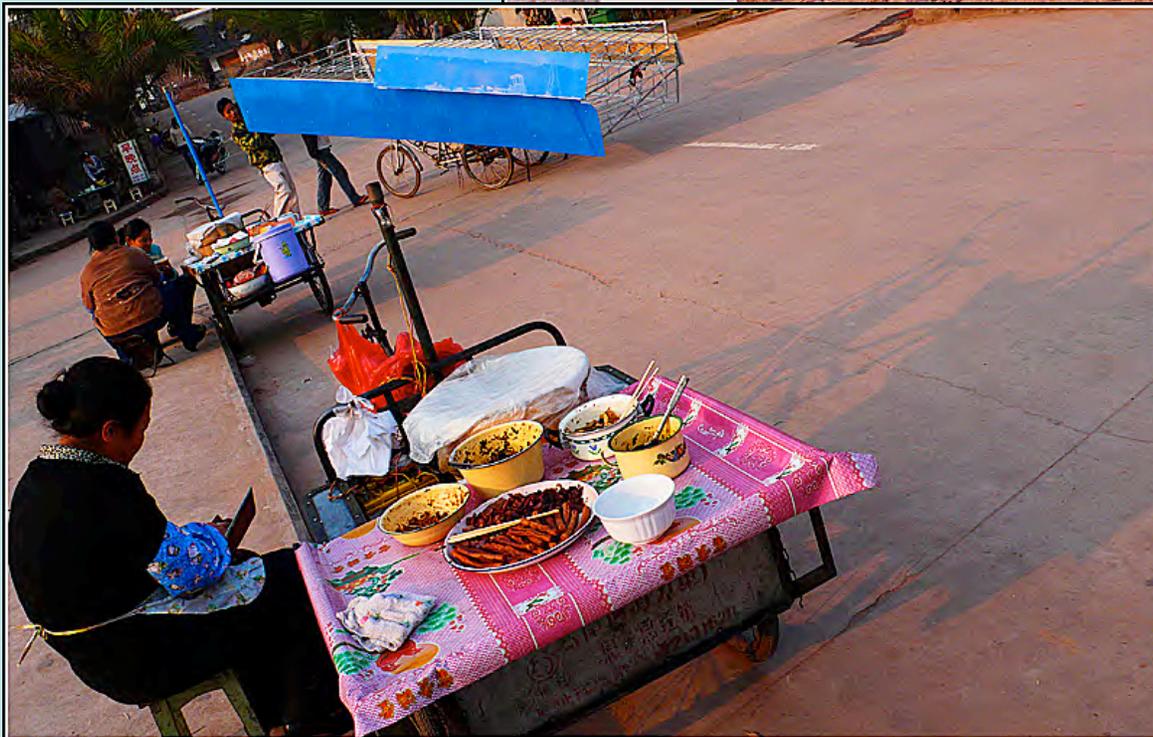
往江城哈尼族彝族自治县县城途中





The firing powers never stop
alongside our ways...
边走边拍...





江城县城之晨, early next morning in JiangCheng, warmly lit by the first ray of sunlight, locals were already up for all sorts of activities...



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Our group was also soon
on the way towards
JingHong city in
XiShuangBanNa region...
我们也得往景洪的路上赶...

Two local minorities were
having an early morning puff...
before setting out for their
day trip across border
to the neighboring
country Laos for Business...
两位当地人一大早准备过境到
不远的老挝去做事情...





Tea plantation... 茶园



This doggie's master was busy cooking a big meal for our group's lunch enjoyment;
while doggy was relaxing on its master's rattan chair..., showing the true mastery manner...
主人在厨房忙碌为我们做丰盛午餐，狗狗占着主人的藤椅舒服的很...

Here is the kitchen of that doggie's master's roadside restaurant...
a delicious big meal was prepared from...



We even had extra protein for the day -
honeybee larvae... fried with greens...

*from LanCang/Mekong River to
the Golden-Triangle*

虽
澜沧江水湍急 湄公河道峻险
然
两岸异国风情好 轻舟直下金三角



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Arrived JingHong. An evening of local
Dai style gourmet dinner with
Dai minority dancing...
抵达景洪，傣家风味宴...

Here we relaxed for the next
morning boat ride down the
LangCang/Mekong River...



构筑文明走廊 创建文明航道



4,480km long, flowing through six countries, the LanCang/Mekong River is the most important international river in eastern Asia. Originated from Qinghai province, more than 2,100km length inside China, it is called "LanCangJiang" river; after the junction where China, Myanmar and Laos, the river is called the "Mekong River"...



Early in the morning, we completed our border exit formality, on our way aboard the riverboat for our amazing journey along this stretch of the river...

晨曦登船出境，顺流澜沧接湄公...



The 340 kilometers water excursion from JingHong to the Golden-Triangle on the LanCang/Mekong River proved to be a fantastic journey... with nature and culture sceneries all the way along sides of the river... Laos on the left... and Myanmar on the right... 三百四十公里水路，两岸风光目不暇接，左为老挝右为缅甸...

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The height of the sandbar reveals the water level difference between dry and rain seasons...

从河边沙坝的高度可知旱雨两季水量的变化...



scenery after scenery on both sides of the river...
(seems our members had a special interest
for water-buffaloes)



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Late afternoon, the boat arrived
Chiang Saen of Thailand.

We resided in a comfortable
resort style hotel that overlooks
the water of Golden-Triangle...
抵达金三角，泰国清盛港



It is only a few minutes walk
from this pleasant hotel into
the town of Chiang Saen...
从下榻的度假村风格酒店到清盛
只是几分钟的步行...



In the crack of dawn, a Chiang Saen flying-wooden-bird craftsman has been already at work...
清盛市晨曦，做木飞鸟的手艺人...

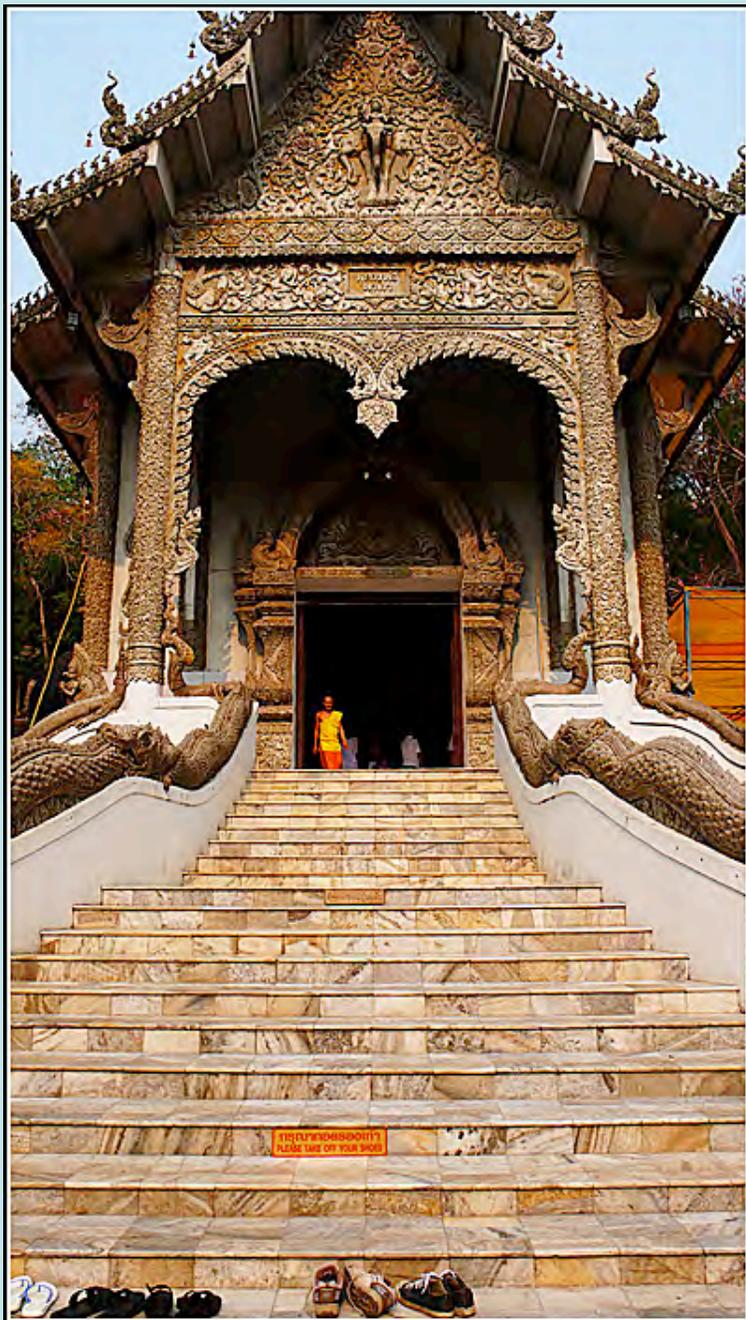
The craftsman's hanging his flying-wooden-birds...



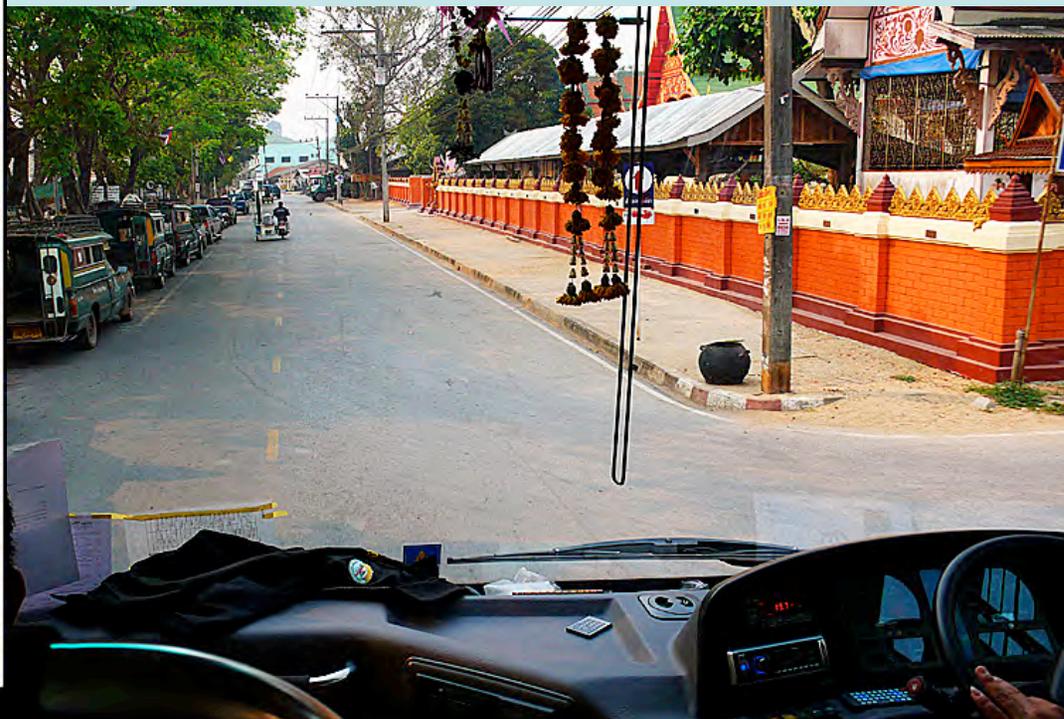
Facing some of our members fierce firing power, this Thai girl is fearless...
这位泰国姑娘从容面对强大火力...

I'm enjoying the fresh Thai papaya during the rich breakfast...





We started a day of interesting Chiang Saen attractions visiting... 清盛市容参观





“She might not be allowed into the temple...” 会让她进这寺庙吗....



“A peek into the monks life...” 僧人生活一瞥...



The hands of monk "Daeng", whom had a
good chat of insights with me...
叶僧人触摸铜锣的双手...



A pair of fallen tree seed-pods...
落下的一对树荚子...



The "Opium Museum" - a very worthwhile place to visit... Highly recommended to everyone who will visit Chiang Saen in Thailand!
非常值得细看的金三角“鸦片博物馆”...



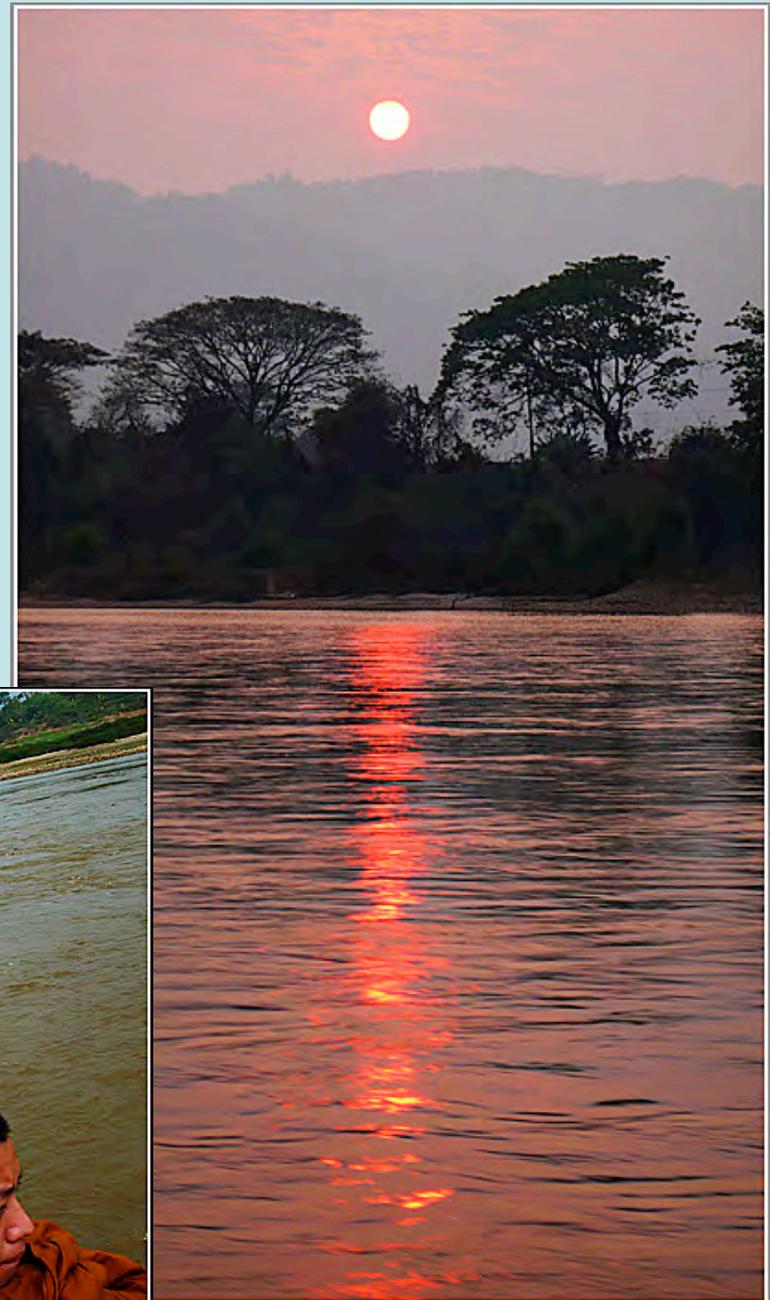
Those are the six long-tail speed boats for our group's fun Golden-Triangle water exploration in the late afternoon... 下午分乘六条长尾摩托艇畅游金三角水域...

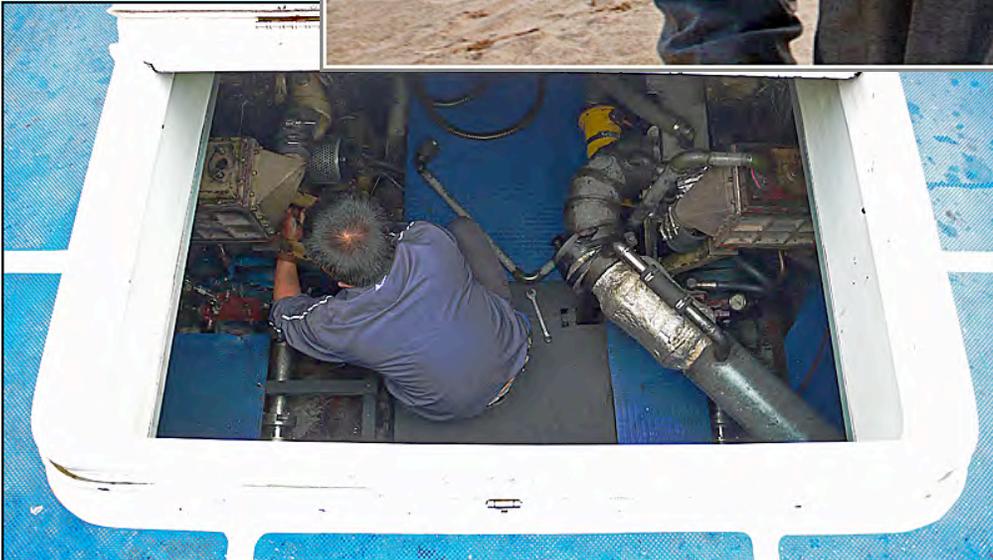
Upper left corner, or
lower right corner...?

By long-tail-boats we also visited an island belongs to
Laos in the other side of the river... 在老挝一小岛上...



Early next morning we started our up-stream journey
back to YunNan... 清晨，上水回程西双版纳...





While the crew engineer was under deck working on an engine overheating problem, our boat was temporary docking by a sandbank on Laos side of the river... that provided an opportunity for this photo of a Lao mother and her baby...

船靠沙滩短暂停留检修时，河边的一位老挝村妇与她的婴孩...



Continuing taking in vistas along sides of the river...



Near dusk, approaching GuanLei port in XiShuangBanNa, China...
时近黄昏，船行回抵近西双版纳中国境内的关累港...

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In GuanLei port, disembark for custom Clearance; 在关累港离船入关...

Joe and Heather had a last look at our boat and the river... 难舍这段难忘之旅...

(perhaps that bike would have taken them quicker back to JingHong that night...?)

However the ready-waiting-for-us big evening meal in GuanLei was nice...



A short stay over back in JingHong. In the morning we are flying to Dali, on route to our next highlight...
回到景洪，早上将飞大理接续我们下一个精彩行程...

Nujiang Canyon Region & Dali Township

怒江峡谷探秘
南诏古国大理

高黎贡山采风
苍山洱海白族



A short flight took us from JongHong to Dali - the hub of western YunNan area;
from here we traveled with our coach towards the NuJiang Canyon region...
从景洪飞抵滇西中心大理，开始我们向怒江大峡谷地区的陆路进发...



On route to LiuKu... 往六库路上



Arrived our first stop in the NuJiang LiSu Minority Autonomous Region - LiuKu...
晚抵六库城 进入怒江傈僳族自治州地区



Continue our journey towards the upper stream of NuJiang Canyon...
继续向怒江峡谷上游进发...

Distinctive local cultures and scenes...

A *LiSu* woman in a local market...
(notice the composition made with her elbow/hands position that matches the chicken-rack frame lines on the lower part of the photo...)

当地众多自然、人文景观各异...
一位傈僳族妇女在集市上...



Roads were winding and narrow...;
but meals were still deliciously
rich and healthy...

道路虽崎岖，但新鲜丰富的餐食
并不滞后...

(嘿... 这里用中文讲吧，
看他们都在狼吞虎咽呢...)



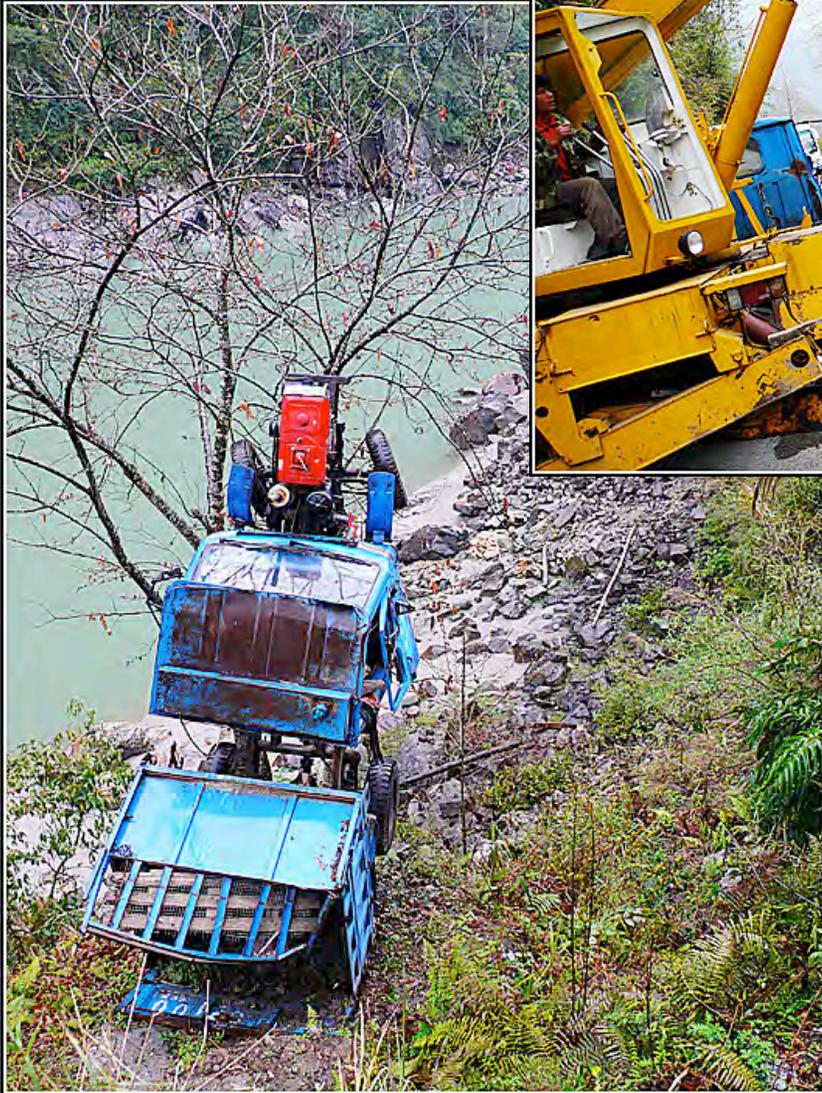


There are abounding cultural scenes deep inside the region...

高黎贡山的人文景观是很丰富的...



Over the NuJiang River...



Over the meandering Canyon roads,
some failed to negotiate...
有开得太快的...

Looks like wanting to create a
piece of contemporary art...
看似现代艺术了...



After the big rain... the "river-road" gave us a good chance to get off the coach for some healthy stretches...

大雨后的道路使我们又有一个下车伸展、休息的机会...



A view from a local resident's hut, over the NuJiang River...
茅草屋上眺望底下的怒江...



The rain lingers...



Sun rays...

Ah, hum, would anyone not
able to see that... ?
能看到云中睡美人吗...?





The blooming season for pear and peach trees...
桃李丛中有人家...



Get off for another stretch... roadside fresh strawberries...
路边买新鲜草莓...

Spring has long been here...
这里的春天早就到了...





DaLi Bai Minority Autonomous Region
大理白族自治州...

Back to DaLi - a distinctive ancient
township that goes well back in
history over a thousand years ago...
回抵大理古城...

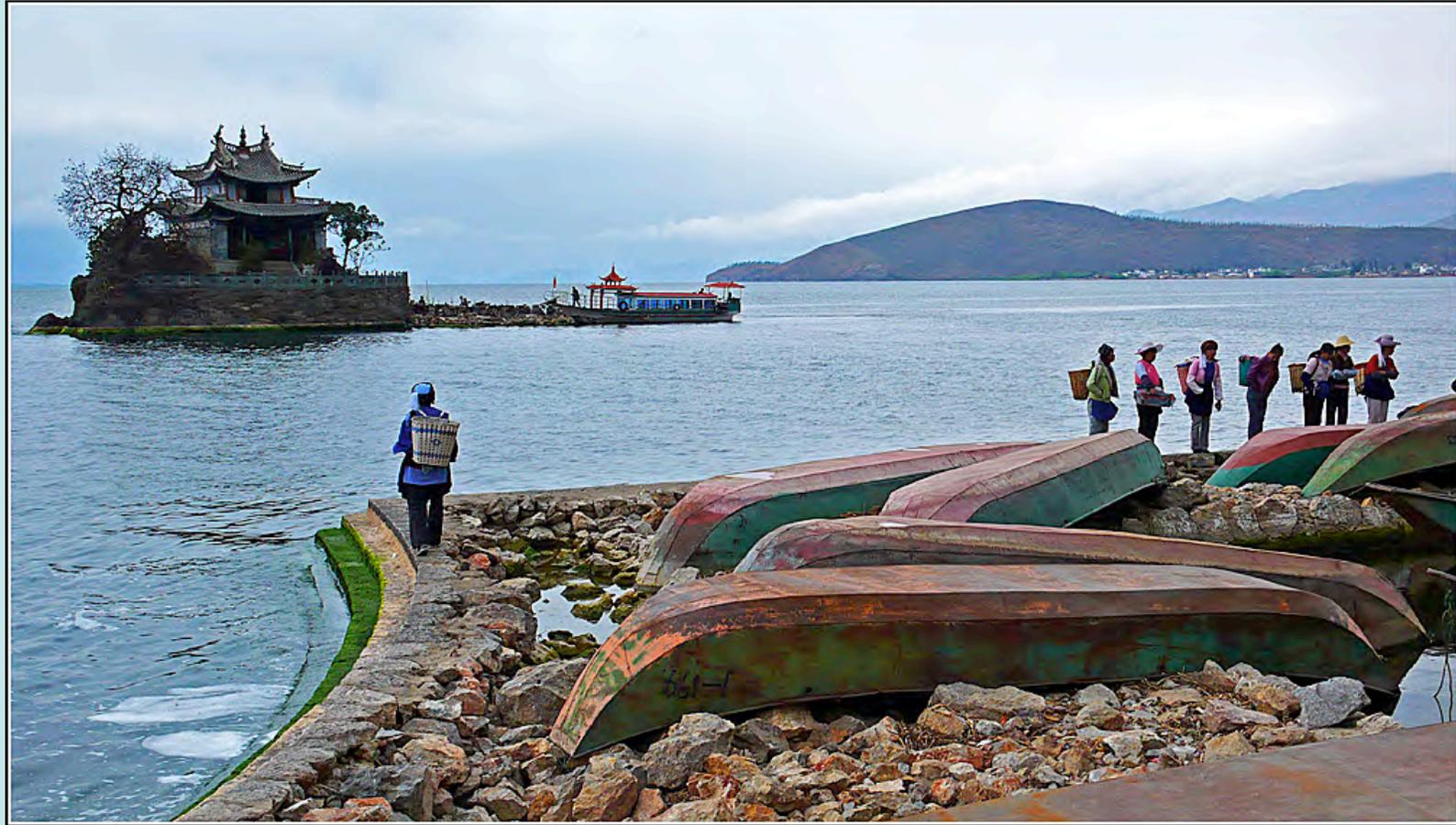




The onion-pickers...



A village by the DaLi Er-hai Lake...
洱海边上...



“XiaoPuTuo” Temple on Er-hai Lake...
洱海上的“小普陀”...



By Er-hai Lakeside... 合影于洱海边上 (前排左起第一人为本摄影日志作者)

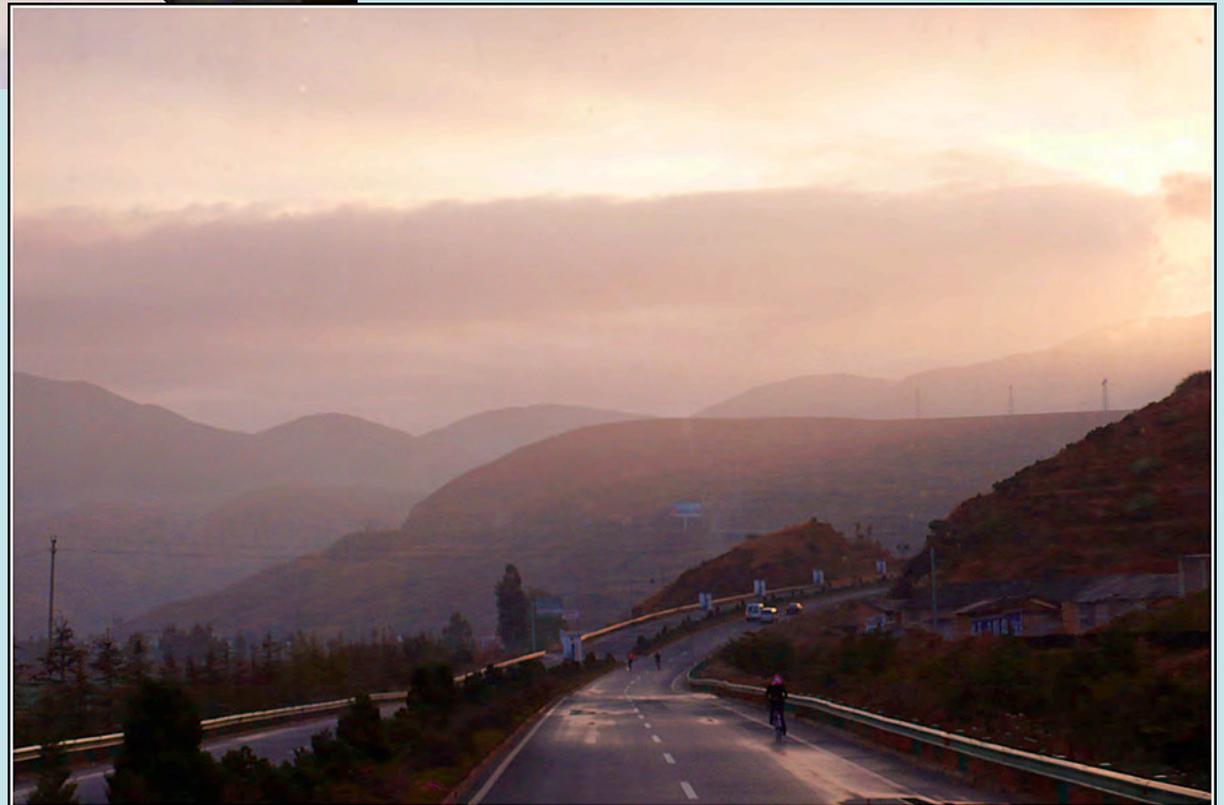
Our expedition <From YunNan to the Golden-Triangle> has been truly blessed...
They who laugh last, laugh best...;

(standing front row first left is the author of this Photo-diary)



The last evening in DaLi, the group presented a celebration for *Joe*...

Early next morning on our way to DaLi airport for our flights to KunMing then Shanghai...
次日清晨，到大理机场飞昆明、上海...



*ZhuJiaJao - the historic watertown
just outside of Shanghai*

摩登都市上海滩旁 古风水乡朱家角上

*and
the conclusion of our tour...*

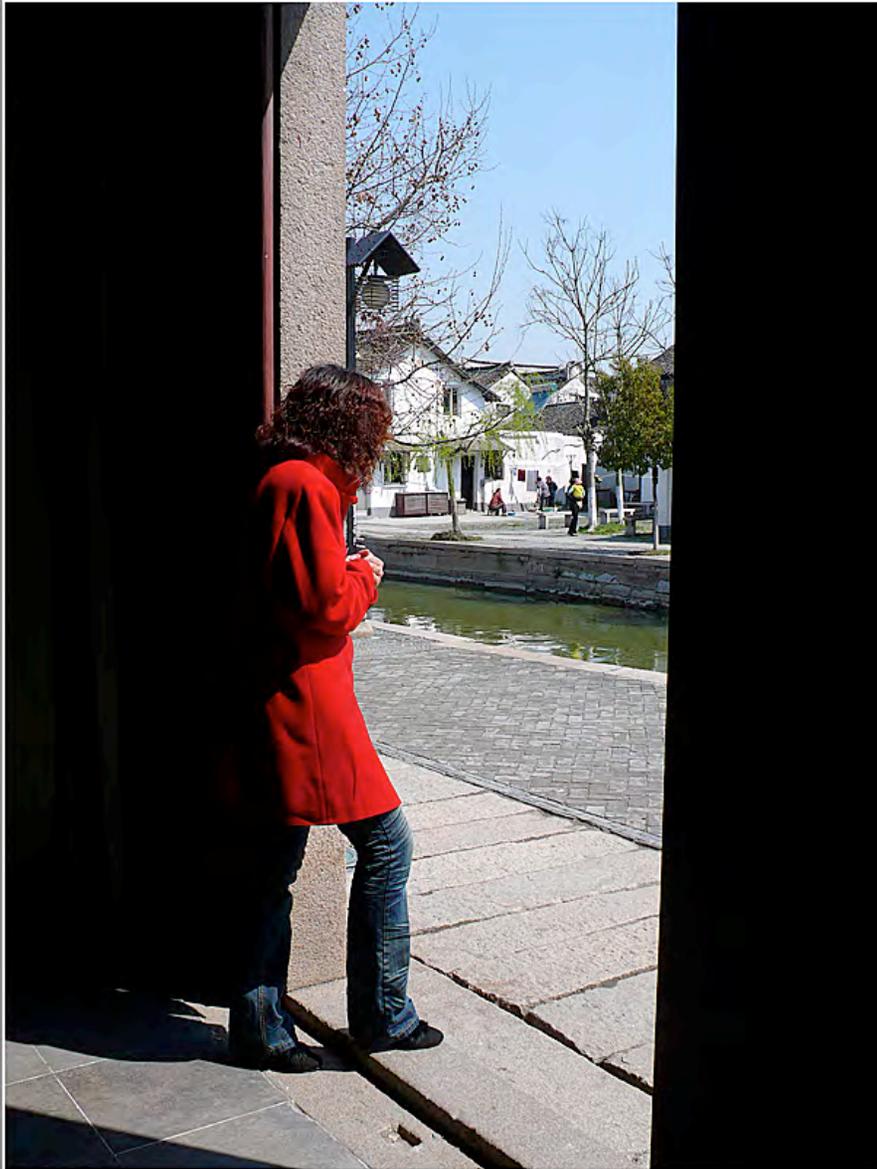
最后一章：离境返程



The last day in Shanghai...

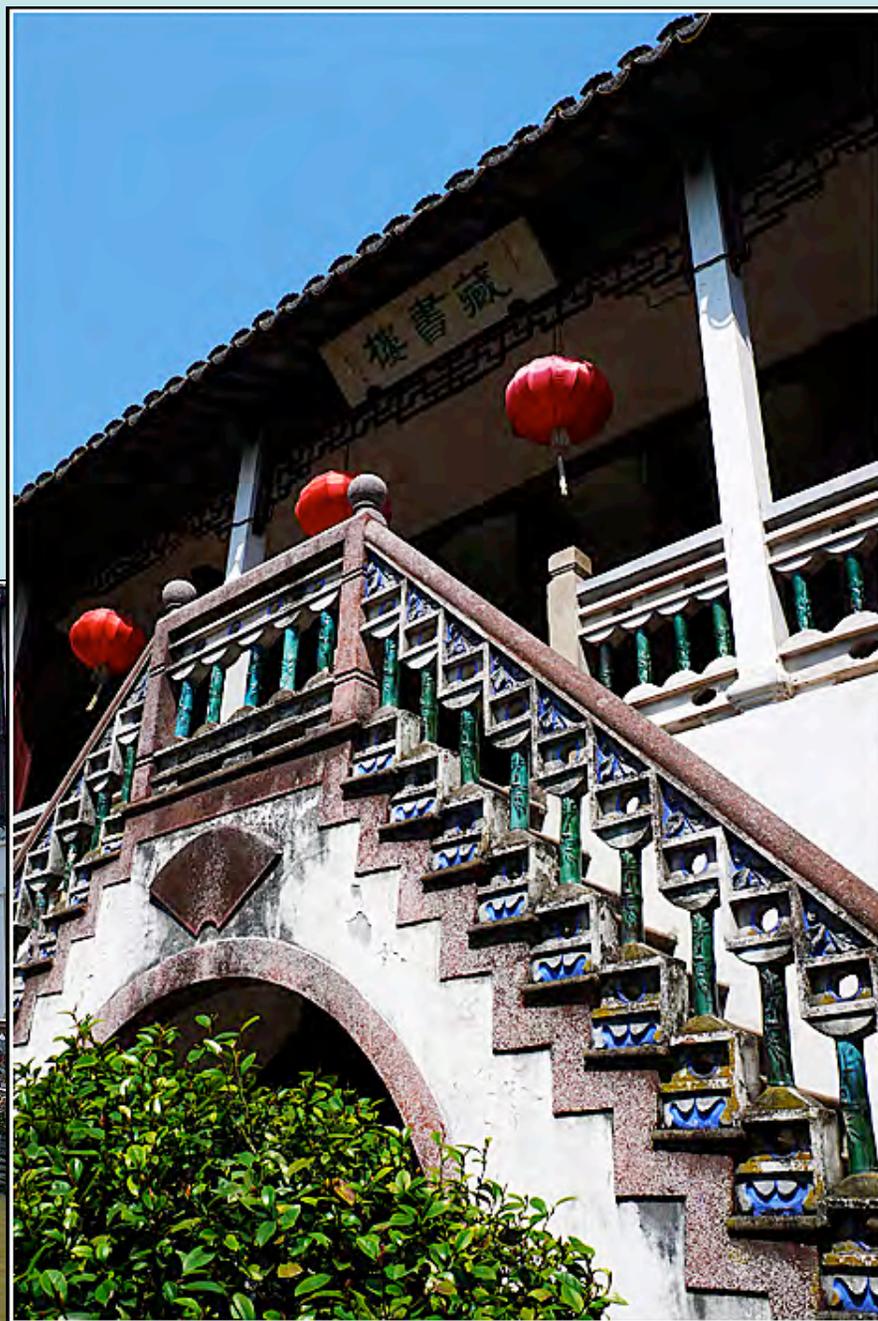
Accompanied with a relaxing visit in the morning to an ancient water-town in the suburb - *ZhuJiaJiao*, with over a thousand years long history dating back to "*Song dynasty*" ...

利用上海离境当天的上午，
到访江南古镇朱家角...



Strolling around this interesting place...
漫步古镇...

Angles of ZhuJiaJiao...
朱家角小景





A view in *ZhuJiaJiao...* 朱家角小景



In *ZhuJiaJiao* we had our “last supper” in China - for this time...; and indeed it was the best meal...

上好的一顿“最后的午餐”；会再有多次的...

And as in the Chinese saying goes:

“*You-Yu-You-Sheng*” 有魚有剩...

(“*there is fish, there will be abundance*”;
which signifies the good wishes for plenty...)



IT WAS OUR GROUP'S LAST DAY IN CHINA; WE HAD A GREAT TOUR AND WONDERFUL MEMORIES....

今日是行程的最后一天，一个给我们留下了美好记忆的行程

See next page - Epilog

Epilog

The snapshots in this Photo-diary are in no way able to represent the richness of culture and nature scenes we've seen, the fun and joy we've experienced during our group's "From YunNan to the Golden-Triangle" travel...

for Yau-Sun Tong's special "Western China Cultural/Photographic Series" expedition tours for September/October and November 2008 as well as for February and March 2009

contact Yau-Sun for details:

tel: (902) 443-5500

e-mail: taiji@chebucto.ca

please visit news page:

<http://photoart.chebucto.org/photonews.html>

Good-bye for now...