

L'Impérial

China 2010



TOUR EXCLUSIVES

- Privatized business class cabin (with VIP service) on an Airbus A380, the largest passenger aircraft in the world.
- Car carrier to take the classic cars 4,500 km through the heart of China (three days and nights) from Canton Port to Kunming.
- A night in "Shangri La" on the Tibetan border and a tour of the Songzanlin Tibetan Monastery.

Yunnan, China in 2010

A unique, unforgettable adventure



China was one of the "L'Impérial - Rallye d'Exception" first destinations back in 2006. The tour returned to China in 2010, this time exploring Silk Road Country: south western China's Yunnan province, on the Tibetan border.

A pioneering spirit

The tour explored areas of the Middle Kingdom that foreign tourists rarely get a chance to see. The adventure kicked off with a tour of Kunming, Yunnan's capital city. Drivers then started up their classic cars' engines and headed off into the spellbinding Stone Forest (Shilin) whose limestone peaks, pillars, and stalagmites have inspired centuries of Chinese folk tales and superstitions. There is nothing else like it in the world. After the second leg of the tour, from Yiliang to Jianshui, participants found themselves in ancestral China with wonders like Confucius' Temple, the secondlargest in the country, with not-to-be missed accommodation at the Zhu Family Garden Hotel, a 19th century home with a centuries old garden and traditional courtyards, pavilions, finely-carved doors, windows with ornamental lintels, and screens.

A land of ancient customs

On the way to Yuanyang on the Vietnamese border, the tour wound its way along mountain roads and passed through villages like Jingkou and Duoyishu, whose residents discovered classic cars for the first time. As for the participants, they took in a breathtaking cascade of terraced mountainside rice paddies. Next came Dali (the City of Marble), with time out to experience the symbolic three-teas ceremony at Xizhou and visit the Three Pagodas Temple at Chongsheng. The last leg of the tour took participants to Lijiang, "the Venice of the East," with its web of canals and tiny bridges. Located at the foot of Jade Dragon Mountain, Lijiang is a picturesque village with cobblestone streets, traditional Chinese architecture, and Peking Willows blowing in the wind. At night time the town lights up with thousands of little red lanterns. Throughout the 2,200 km journey, participants got a unique view of the Chinese culture and way of life, and had the rare opportunity to meet people from ethnic minorities like Hani, Hui, Yi, Bai, and Naxi.

"Every minute of this journey was pure magic!"

