



Nixi Black Pottery Selling Well

By Yang Zheng

The Nixi black pottery of Shangri-La County, Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, has a long history. As one of the most culturally distinctive crafts of the Tibetan people in Diqing, it has been inscribed on the national intangible cultural heritage list of China. Seizing this great opportunity for its ethnic and folk culture industry, Shangri-La County has developed a series of new black pottery products based on the traditional process through the "company + farmers" business model. Currently, the black pottery industry has become a featured industry leading farmers to get rich and accelerate the local cultural development.

Cooperation Between Alibaba and Yuxi Going into Full Swing

By Yu Hong

The other day, the Yuxi Electronic Commerce Association was officially incorporated in the Hi-tech Zone of Yuxi City, when Alibaba Group expressed the intention to cooperate with Yuxi City and promote local e-commerce development in an all-round way.

According to the chief of the Central and Western China Rural E-Commerce Working Group of Alibaba Group, Alibaba will work with Yuxi to help its enterprises "go out" through e-commerce so that vegetables, fruits and other local agricultural products of Yuxi can be sold all over China and the world.

Cross-Border Tourism Booming in Yunnan

By Zhang Ruogu

"Spending your holidays in Yunnan, you can experience cross-border tourism, which is particularly interesting," this is a feeling shared by many tourists from other places.

When going through border formalities in Hekou port on China-Vietnam border with his wife, daughter and parents, Sun Weixiong, a tourist from Kunming, said that the convenient transportation could save them a lot of time and they were going to spend three days travelling in Halong Bay, Vietnam. According to Ding Junchi, an officer on duty at the Hekou border crossing, with the launch of the Kunming-Hekou passenger railway line, the Hekou port has seen a sharp increase from the previous year in the number of cross-border tourists from both Yunnan and other provinces.

With the opening of the Kunming-Bangkok throughfare and the border tourism circuit, from February 19th to 21st, more than 4,100 self-driving tourist cars went through the Mohan port at the China-Laos border, a year-on-year increase of 30 percent. And in Ruili Port at the China-Myanmar border, many tourists have passed through the Port to experience the unique folk customs and culture of Myanmar in February.

Britain's Prince William Visited Xishuangbanna



Prince William is feeding elephant Ran Ran with carrots at Xishuangbanna Wild Elephant Breeding Centre.

Photo by Yu Jiangning

By Dai Zhenhua

On March 4, Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, visited Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture in south-western Yunnan. In Xishuangbanna, Prince William came to the homes of some Dai villagers in Mengman Village next to Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve. At the Xishuangbanna Wild Elephant Breeding Centre, Prince William even "came into intimate contact" with Ran Ran, an Asian elephant rescued 10 years ago. Prince William also learnt about the protection of wild elephants and the crackdown on illicit trafficking and poaching of wild animals in the Wild Elephant Valley and planted a Dillenia tree, which is

unique to Xishuangbanna, in the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden.

In the Tropical Botanical Garden, Prince William attended a seminar themed on "Conservation on the Borders: an Evaluation of the Role and Future of Transboundary Protected Areas in Southern China" at the research centre of the Botanical Garden and delivered a speech. He said, this trip had given him a deep and intuitive understanding of China's rapid economic development and profound culture, and he was lucky enough to experience the biodiversity in Yunnan. He expressed appreciation for China's contribution to the protection of wildlife and suggested that the UK and China strengthen cooperation to protect rare species,

eradicate the illicit trade and reduce the market demand.

The Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve is the best preserved tropical rainforest in China. It has the richest biological resources and the largest area of tropical virgin forest and is the main habitat of wild Asian elephants in China. The Xishuangbanna Wild Elephant Valley in the Nature Reserve, 22 kilometres away from Jinghong City, is China's first national park committed to the protection of wildlife and environment. In recent years, through unremitting efforts, Yunnan has accumulated a wealth of experience in the protection of biodiversity, especially in the transboundary biodiversity conservation. With the intensifying protection efforts, the wildlife popula-

tions in the Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve have increased significantly, with the number of Asian elephants increased from a little more than 170 in the 1980s to around 350 now.

A strong supporter of wildlife protection organizations, Prince William often gives speeches urging the world to adopt a "zero tolerance" attitude towards the illegal poaching. Previously, Prince William and his father had made a multilingual publicity video on the protection and rescue of endangered animals, drawing the world's attention to the fact that "If no action is taken, wild elephants, tigers and other wildlife might disappear." In the past years, Prince William has been committed to protecting endangered animals and

opposing the ivory smuggling trade. During this trip, He highly praised China's policy and efforts in the protection of elephants and other wildlife and expected China to become a leader in the wildlife conservation.

This has been the second visit to Yunnan by the British royal family. During her visit to China in 1986, Queen Elizabeth II also came to Yunnan with Prince Philip, who planted a Parashorea chinensis in the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden. Next to this now towering tree, Prince William planted a Dillenia tree to express his best wishes for wild elephants. This tree is also known as the "elephant apple tree", because its leaves and fruits are the favourite food of wild elephants.

Yunnan Launched Silk Road Tourism Year

By Zhang Ruogu

Recently, the Yunnan launching ceremony of "Beautiful China - 2015 Silk Road Tourism Year" was held in Nakeli Village of Ning'er County, Pu'er.

In order to implement the strategies of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, bring into play the unique advantages of the tourism industry in the "Belt and Road" initiatives and further promote the regional tourism cooperation between China and Southeast Asian, South Asian and Central Asian countries, China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) has defined the theme of the 2015 China tourism campaign as "Beautiful China - Silk Road Tourism Year".

In line with the "Silk

Road Tourism Year" China tourism campaign, Yunnan has identified the theme of its 2015 tourism promotion efforts as "Travelling the Colourful Yunnan, Exploring the Southern Silk Road". It is going to further build the brands of "Southern Silk Road" and "Ancient Tea & Horse Road" and strengthen the image of Yunnan as a paradise of tourism.

Nakeli Village is south of Ning'er County, Pu'er City, and it is an important stop-over place on the Ancient Tea & Horse Road. Today, we can still find the traces of its long history here and there, such as the well-preserved ruins of Ancient Tea & Horse Road, the century-old Rongfa Horse Shop, the barn lanterns of the caravans and the water troughs from which the horses had drunk their fill.

11th Lancang Jiang Beer Festival kicked off



Tourists compete to be the King in Beer King Tournament.

Photo by Wang Jing

By Wang Jing

The 11th Lancang Jiang Beer Festival was held in Southwest Yunnan's Yun County from March 3rd to 5th, attracting thousands of visitors.

The Festival rose to a crescendo when the Night Show was held. During the Show attended by 50,000 people, Da Zhangwei, Zhao Chuan and other famous Chinese singers gave fantastic performances while fireworks added to the gaiety of the occasion.

It is said since the 1st Beer Festival, hotel prices in Yun County have shown significant increase. Many local people hoped the Festival could become a brand of Yun County to attract people both at home and abroad to discover the beauty of their hometown.

Other events were also held during the Festival, including Beer King Tournament, Chinese Painting and Calligraphy Exhibition, Yun County Products Exhibition and Food Street for Local Snacks.

The A-Shaped Bridge in the Past Century



A view of the A-Shaped Bridge

Photo by Zhou Can

By Qin Mingyu

The Yunnan-Vietnam Railway, built by French, went into operation in 1910. It is divided into two sections, the north section and the south section. The south section, or the Vietnam

section, is in Vietnam and covers 389 km; the north section, or the Yunnan section, is in China and extends 469 km from Hekou to Kunming. Compared to the Vietnam section, the Yunnan section was extremely difficult to construct. Of the

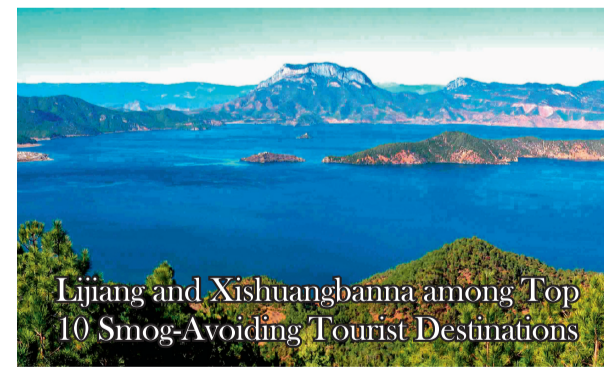
more than 400 bridges painstakingly built in this section, the A-Shaped Bridge used to be referred to as the dance of death.

The A-Shaped Bridge is about 10 km from Wantang Township of Pingbian County, Yunnan. After a

half-hour ride from the seat of Wantang Township and a bit more walk along the railway till you go through a tunnel, you will find yourself standing on the A-Shaped Bridge. Unlike other bridges, the A-Shaped Bridge is loftily and incredibly built between the cliffs. It is 67 metres in length and 4.2 metres in width, and the bridge floor is 100 metres from the bottom of the valley. If you study it closely, you will find to your surprise that all components, from the huge A-frames at the base to the steel bars supporting the bridge floor, follow the principle of the stability triangle. This is indeed a wonderful design. After repeated failures of other bridge designs, the French railway company invited designs from all over the world, and the solution proposed by a French engineer based on the prin-

ciples of mechanics was finally adopted. According to records, although it was already the most rational possible design, more than 800 Yunnan labourers fell to their deaths from the steep precipices and cliffs. Today, after over one hundred years in service, the A-Shaped Bridge is still playing an irreplaceable role. Having witnessed a century of vicissitudes, the A-frame firmly holding the bridge seems to be still telling us the story of the 800-plus labourers.

The A-Shaped Bridge made it possible for the Yunnan-Vietnam railway to go into operation, which opened a window to the outside world and brought a lot of new things into Yunnan. In 2006, the A-Shaped Bridge was recognised as a "key cultural relic under state protection" by the State Council of China.



Lugu Lake in Lijiang

Photo by Lei Tongsu

By Zhang Fang

Recently, the "2014 Chinese People Smog-Avoiding Tourism Report" published by Ctrip, China's largest online travel agency, puts Lijiang and Xishuangbanna in Yunnan among the top 10 domestic smog-avoiding tourist destinations.

The report by Ctrip is based on a survey involving tens of thousands of tourists, which shows that 80 percent of domestic tourists listed the smog-avoiding demand as one of the main factors in their choices of tourist

destinations, second only to the leisure and sightseeing demand; and 50 percent of tourists took the smog level into consideration in their choices of tourist destinations. Among the respondents, women were more concerned about the local smog index than men, and the post-80s and 70s were the most concerned about the air quality.

According to the report, the top 10 domestic smog-avoiding tourist destinations were Sanya, Xiamen, Jiuzhaigou, Guilin, Huangguoshu, Lijiang, Zhangjiajie, Lhasa, Xishuangbanna and Yangshuo.