



CHINA • YUNNAN



TOURISM

Yunnan opens first cliffside glass walkway

Qin Menglin

In the Shimenguan scenic area on the western slope of Cangshan Mountain in Yangbi County of Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, a 1,550-metre-long and 170-metre-high tourist walkway is going into trial operation. It includes a breathtaking cliffside glass section that extends for 80 metres. The walkway was developed by Cangshan Shimenguan Tourism Development Company.

According to Ji Xiaodong, chairman of Cangshan Shimenguan Tourism Development Company, the cliffside glass walkway is the first of its kind in Yunnan and is longer than the glass walkway in Zhangjiajie National Forest Park by 20 metres. The glass for the two walkways was produced by the same manufacturer. Customised to fit the cliffs, the glass is worth 400 yuan per square metre and each square metre can bear a load of six tonnes. The walkway also provides a glass viewing platform that stretches out from the cliff wall seven metres, where tourists can get a bird's view of the cliffs, waterfalls and pools.

Following the opening of the cliffside glass walkway, the five-star Shimenguan Hotel, the Old Village Head Inn and the Bai Ethnic Dwellings Hotel will successively go into trial operation. In addition, an outdoor spa establishment will be completed in the near future.



Photo by Huang Jianfeng

INTERCONNECTIVITY

Main structure of Yunnan HSR command center roofed



Photo by Li Hongfeng

The building which is being built will be used as Yunnan high-speed railway (HSR) station. At the same time, major construction-works of dispatch and command center of Yunnan high-speed railway roofed on January 15 in Kunming. The center is scheduled to conduct joint debugging and commissioning in June with high-speed railway systems in Guangxi and Shanghai. As an essential part of the Yunnan high-speed rail network, the dispatch and command center will play a key role in transportation safety and efficiency.

Hu Xiaorong

ECONOMY

131 Top 500 companies settled in Yunnan

Li Dandan

According to the Yunnan Provincial Investment Promotion and Cooperation Bureau, a total of 131 domestic and world's top 500 companies set up offices in the province over the past five years.

From 2011 to 2015, Yunnan Province registered the fastest growth and the largest contribution in its efforts to attract foreign businesses and investment. During this period, investment in Yunnan from other provinces exceeded two trillion yuan and the foreign capital actually utilized reached twelve billion US dollars, 4.9 times and 3.1 times those of the period from 2006 to 2010, respectively. The capital availability ratio of industrial investment projects rose from 40 percent in 2011 to 56

percent in 2015.

With many well-known companies setting up offices in Yunnan, the field of investment keeps expanding. The arrival of foreign banks and institutions, such as HSBC, Hang Seng and Malayan Bank, has brought the number of foreign banks in Yunnan to seven. Bayer AG, Israel Chemicals, New Hope and a number of other famous domestic and foreign enterprises have settled in Yunnan, bringing the numbers of the world's top 500 companies and China's top 500 companies in the province to 22 and 109, respectively. In addition, Yunnan Province has signed cooperation agreements with 72 state-owned key enterprises. 52 brands of 27 domestic and foreign hotel groups, such as InterContinental Hotel

and Hilton have settled in Yunnan, which promoted the province's tourism industry. BAIC Motor Corporation and Chongqing Lifan Group have filled some industrial gaps in Yunnan Province. The introduction of Hua Wei, Inspur Cloud Computing and Alibaba Group have instilled a strong driving force in the cultivation and development of emerging industries in Yunnan Province. The clothing, toys and electronics projects in the Yanshan Industrial Park, the toys project in the Zhaotong Industrial Park and the textile project in the Baoshan Industry and Trade Park have promoted the industrial clustering and capital agglomeration. All these large companies and projects have expanded the province's industrial scale and extended the industrial chain.

TRADE

Seven ports in Yunnan designated as ports of entry for grain imports

Liao Xingyang

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) recently announced the country's ports of entry and inspection for grain imports. On the list are seven ports in Yunnan, namely Ruili, Wanding, Hekou, Mohan, Tianbao, Mengding and Houqiao (Tengchong). Among them, Tianbao is the only port designated as an inspection point for the import of cassava.

As an important area

of China facing South and Southeast Asia, Yunnan has 25 counties (cities) bordering Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. In order to effectively prevent and reduce pests and other potential security risks from grain imports, China AQSIQ and other relevant ministries have required that related goods must be imported via designated ports of entry since 2014. Detailed standards and strict rules have been prescribed for the construction and appraisal of designated ports of entry.

LIFE

Kunming hit by first snowfall this year



On January 23, a cold wave brought this year's first snowfall to the Spring City of Kunming. Despite the unusually severe cold, many Kunmingers enthusiastically came to watch the snow-covered landscape and feed the black-headed gulls.

Gu Bin



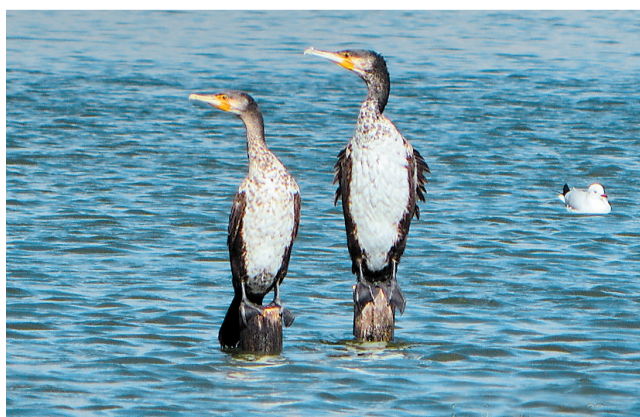
For more information, please visit our website, Yunnan Express: english.yunnan.cn

ECOLOGY

Wild cormorants come back to Dianchi Lake after 30 years

Bai Jingli and Li Chao

Through the implementation of ecological construction projects, the vegetation coverage around Dianchi Lake has reached 80 percent, a six-fold increase over the past decade. With the remarkably increased wetland species in the Dianchi Lake drainage basin, wild cormorants have been seen again after an absence of more than 30 years, the Kunming Municipal Dianchi Lake Administration Bureau disclosed recently.



Provided by Kunming Municipal Dianchi Lake Administration Bureau

Dianchi Lake is the largest lake on the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau. In the late 1980s, Dianchi Lake became one of China's most polluted freshwater lakes. In recent

years, significant results have been achieved in the governance of Dianchi Lake, turning the lake from severe eutrophication in 2010 to moderate eutrophication in 2015. With the implementation of ecological construction, the ecological functionality and stability of the Dianchi Lake ecosystem has been improved, and the biodiversity in the Dianchi drainage basin has been gradually restored, said He Feng, a senior engineer of Kunming Institute of Ecology of Dianchi Lake.

As the ecological

environment constantly improves, the number of wetland species in the Dianchi Lake drainage basin has increased from 232 to about 290. The communities of bitter herbs, floating-hearts and other plants that disappeared in the 1970s and 1980s have returned.

Thanks to the restoration and improvement of the ecological environment in Dianchi Lake, three wild cormorants have been recently seen by researchers in the northern corner of Dianchi Lake after an absence of more than 30 years. In recent years,

the improving ecological environment around Dianchi Lake has attracted significantly more birds to live or winter there. Of the 140 species of birds observed in the area, many are newly recorded in Yunnan, and the Anastomus oscitans observed here in 2013 even marked a new record in China. Dianchi Lake has become an important habitat for Yunnan waterfowl, as well as for a large number of wintering waterfowl from other places. No wonder it is recognized by Birdlife International as an important area in Asia.