

Guizhou's Duliu River leads travelers to China's best kept secrets

popular natural and cultural sites is also one of its main draws. Pack in as much as you can and see Yungang Cave, Wutai and Heng Mountain as well as cultural sights like Jin Ancestral Hall, the ancient Pingyao City and the Qiao, Qu and Chang family compounds, all built during the Ming Dynasty.

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Duliu River | Guizhou Province WHITE WATER WILD

¥  Nestled in the rugged mountains of southeast Guizhou is the Duliu River, a picturesque channel that runs through some of the last true minority regions of China. The Duliu was once the lifeblood for traditional Dong, Miao and Zhuang ethnic minorities; it's now been discovered as a kayaker's dream. The area is rapidly developing a reputation as a

destination for adventure travelers after a true backcountry experience. This 200 km kayak journey follows the Duliu River from Sandu city to the cultural hub of Congjiang. With convenient access to a main road, it offers class three white water and rewarding cultural interaction without the anxiety of complete isolation. A visit to Basha village, 7 km southwest of Congjiang, is a must upon completion of the journey. Basha is a living museum; in 2002 it was listed as one of the 10 main culture villages of Guizhou. Basha's Miao minority, which believes their race was born from the stem of a maple leaf, still lead traditional, subsistence lives. Men shave their heads, keeping a long, central section to twist and comb into a hugun knot. Women wear their hair in a coil decorated with a wooden comb and dress in black cotton clothes embroidered with lace. Men above 15 are granted government permission to carry rifles that, although

not used for hunting, are still functional and regularly used in cultural ceremonies. It won't be long before this spectacular trip gains the widespread attention it deserves.

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Shanghai to Beijing TASTE OF CHINA

¥ There's no better way to get to know a place than through eating. In nine days (Nov. 8-18), you'll eat your way from the avant-garde fusion delights at Paul Pairet's Jade on 36 in Shanghai to hearty northern cuisine in the shadow of the Great Wall. For host Jonathan Hason of Luxury Concierge, the goal is a "rich experience of the refinement of China." Highlights include a meal of southern cuisine served in the middle of a bamboo forest near Moganshan, as well as a feast mounted in one of Suzhou's famous classically-styled gardens. These authentic culinary

experiences provide unique insight into Chinese tradition and taste. When you're not eating, you'll be treated to exclusive introductions to Chinese contemporary art, architecture and design under the guidance of experts, exactly what Luxury

Concierge is known for.
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Chengdu | Sichuan Province ROAD TO RECOVERY

¥  Sometimes travel isn't about you, it's about them. This four-day trip to Chengdu exposes you to the realities of the Sichuan earthquake, while your tourism dollars help revive a devastated local economy. A visit to the Chengdu Panda Breeding and Research Center aside, the highlight of the trip is undoubtedly the Jianchuan Museum, specifically its