Backroads CHINA
October 3-19, 2008

With free Angkor Wat Extension to October 22, 2008 (plus air)

Dear Members & Friends:

Nestled in Southeast Asia, southwestern CHINA is home to some of the most scenic area in Yunnan Province. More distinct ethnic groups live here than in any other area of the country.

A profound cultural transition is underway in Yunnan, as elsewhere in CHINA. Traditionally rural backroads country villages are challenged by images of a vibrant modernizing Chinese society. Yet Yunnan still possesses delightful backroads to explore and fascinating remote cultures to discover.

Leading our expedition in 2008 will be our outstanding guide, David Huang. David has been a popular leader of our expeditions to CHINA since 1994. He looks forward to sharing his knowledge, enthusiasm, and love of Chinese culture and landscape with you. You will receive many valuable tips and insights from the group for further information. This expedition is subject to weather change and may have to be changed in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Our accommodations will be a mixture of elegant Chinese hotels and simple local guest houses. We will have an excellent guide. Day-to-day planning and logistics will be handled by our CHINA specialist, Margaret M. Betchart, a seasoned traveler who has led many expeditions to CHINA.

In the afternoon, we will visit the enchanting Stone Forest. The stone formations are amazing and give a sense of an underworld, or a magical land.

For further information, please contact our office at
1-800-996-7700 or via email at sales@backroads.com.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Betchart
President & CEO
Backroads CHINA
October 3-19, 2008

With free Angkor Wat Extension to October 22, 2008 (plus air)

Discover the Rich Cultures & Heritage of Yunnan!

A warm welcome to CHINA, the land of ancient culture, unique nature settings, and colorful minorities. Many CRD (Chinese roads and destinations) are the result of great natural and historical landscapes. Yunnan Province is the best example of the CRD. Here we can see the landscape of Yunnan and its culture.

CHINA offers one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world. The land is like a portrait of nature. We will visit some of the most beautiful places in Yunnan, including Lijiang, Dali, Kunming, and Shangri-La.

We will start our journey from Kunming and visit some of the most beautiful places in Yunnan, including Lijiang, Dali, Kunming, and Shangri-La.

Day 1 - Kunming

Welcome to Kunming! Kunming enjoys delightful springlike weather and is known as the ‘Spring City’. We will be welcomed with a traditional Bai ethnic dance.

Day 2 - Kunming to Lijiang

We will visit Lijiang, an ancient city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the old town and visit some famous attractions such as Black Dragon Pool and Jade Dragon Snow Mountain.

Day 3 - Lijiang to Dali

We will visit Dali, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Old Town and the Temple of the Golden罗

Day 4 - Dali

We will visit some of the most beautiful places in Dali, including the 99龙 Pool and the old town.

Day 5 - Dali to Zhongdian

We will visit Zhongdian, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 6 - Zhongdian to Weishan

We will visit Weishan, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 7 - Weishan to Jinchuan

We will visit Jinchuan, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 8 - Jinchuan to Kunming

We will visit Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan Province. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 9 - Kunming to Shanghai

We will visit Shanghai, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 10 - Shanghai to Beijing

We will visit Beijing, the capital city of CHINA. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 11 - Beijing to Xian

We will visit Xian, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 12 - Xian to Zhengzhou

We will visit Zhengzhou, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 13 - Zhengzhou to Shanghai

We will visit Shanghai, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 14 - Shanghai to Kunming

We will visit Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan Province. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 15 - Kunming to Lijiang

We will visit Lijiang, an ancient city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 16 - Lijiang to Dali

We will visit Dali, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 17 - Dali to Zhongdian

We will visit Zhongdian, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 18 - Zhongdian to Weishan

We will visit Weishan, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 19 - Weishan to Kunming

We will visit Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan Province. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 20 - Kunming to Shanghai

We will visit Shanghai, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 21 - Shanghai to Xian

We will visit Xian, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 22 - Xian to Zhengzhou

We will visit Zhengzhou, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 23 - Zhengzhou to Shanghai

We will visit Shanghai, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 24 - Shanghai to Kunming

We will visit Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan Province. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 25 - Kunming to Lijiang

We will visit Lijiang, an ancient city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 26 - Lijiang to Dali

We will visit Dali, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 27 - Dali to Zhongdian

We will visit Zhongdian, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 28 - Zhongdian to Weishan

We will visit Weishan, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 29 - Weishan to Kunming

We will visit Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan Province. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.

Day 30 - Kunming to Shanghai

We will visit Shanghai, a city with a long history and rich culture. We will explore the city and visit some famous attractions such as the Temple of the Golden Dragon and the Old Town.
Day 9 – The Walled Town of Dali

Dali is an ancient walled town of huge masonry that dramatically rises from the foothills of the Cangshan Mountains west of Jianchuan, including Shizhongshan (Stone Bell Mountain), where Buddhist themed frescoes were carved into cliff-side alcoves during the Song Dynasty about a millennia ago. At this time, areas of high mountains were carved into cliff-side alcoves during the Song Dynasty about a millennia ago. At that time, this area was inhabited by scholar farmers from many parts of Asia. The nearby village of Bai, was until recently a station along China’s ‘silk’ railway with railcars from Tibet. Bai is situated on the old Tibet Road between China and Tibet, and formed the northern source of livelihood for several Naxi villages. Stay in the traditional Naxi courtyard house and enjoy the scenery and get to know the Naxi way of life as part of the daily tour.

This morning we will depart for Jianchuan (Sword River), a town that once served as a hub for trade between China and Tibet, and formed the northern source of livelihood for several Naxi villages. Stay in the traditional Naxi courtyard house and enjoy the scenery and get to know the Naxi way of life as part of the daily tour.

Day 10 – Dali to Jianshui along the old Tibetan Road

This morning we will depart from Dali for the city of Lijiang, set stop a plateau between two sharp mountain peaks, and lurch down a scenic path or take a cable car to the upper Jade Dragon Mountain Range. After lunch, we will visit the Naxi minority village of Chengzhuzi, with distinctive earthen and timber houses. We will then explore the Jade Dragon Mountain Range, site of the ancient Naxi Kingdom. The mountain is dramatically eroded, much like the Ruifang mountains of Taiwan.

After lunch, we will arrive at the ancient walled town of Dali, once the head of the Nanzhao and Dali Kingdom that controlled much of the territory that today comprises Southwest China. Dali has recently become a major attraction for domestic Chinese tourists. This has changed, but to our Western eye, remains a richly interesting or scenic. Enjoy performance of traditional Bai music tonight by a local troupe of musicians. Lijiang Hotel (2 nights).

Day 12 – Lijiang & Jade Dragon Mountains

The city of Lijiang is dramatically eroded, much like the Ruifang mountains of Taiwan. Today comprises Southwest China. Dali has recently become a major attraction for domestic Chinese tourists. This has changed, but to our Western eye, remains a richly interesting or scenic. Enjoy performance of traditional Bai music tonight by a local troupe of musicians. Lijiang Hotel (2 nights).

Day 13 – Naxi & Shangri-la

After lunch, we will depart for the city of Shangri-la (also known as Zhongdian), which Chinese call ‘Shangri-la’ and is the Tibetan word for ‘place of the overupper Yangtze where Tibetan families grow barley on terraced fields. The vistas today are unforgettable!

Day 14 – Zhongdian to Kunming

This morning we will visit Songzanlin Lamasary, the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Yunnan. This complex, with its multi-pillared assembly hall and canal-lined alleys, and private gardens add color to the Tang Dynasty, more than a millennia ago.

Day 15 – Kunming to Shangri-la

Depart Weishan this morning for Dali, passing through a fertile valley surrounded by ancient walled towns, and arrive at your hotel after lunch at the Yangtze River, making this one of the deepest gorges in the world. We will then visit the Yunnan Nationalities Museum, which shows influence of Tibetan Buddhism as well as the local Naxi religion. We will explore near the lakeshore, then visit Ziyun (Purple Cloud) Monastery, which was carved into cliff-side alcoves during the Song Dynasty about a millennia ago. At that time, this area was inhabited by scholar farmers from many parts of Asia. The nearby village of Bai, was until recently a station along China’s ‘silk’ railway with railcars from Tibet. Bai is situated on the old Tibet Road between China and Tibet, and formed the northern source of livelihood for several Naxi villages. Stay in the traditional Naxi courtyard house and enjoy the scenery and get to know the Naxi way of life as part of the daily tour.

This morning we will depart for Jianchuan (Sword River), a town that once served as a hub for trade between China and Tibet, and formed the northern source of livelihood for several Naxi villages. Stay in the traditional Naxi courtyard house and enjoy the scenery and get to know the Naxi way of life as part of the daily tour.

Day 16 – Zhongdian to Kunming

This morning we will visit Songzanlin Lamasary, the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Yunnan. This complex, with its multi-pillared assembly hall and canal-lined alleys, and private gardens add color to the Tang Dynasty, more than a millennia ago.

Day 17 – Kunming to Shangri-la

Depart Weishan this morning for Dali, passing through a fertile valley surrounded by ancient walled towns, and arrive at your hotel after lunch at the Yangtze River, making this one of the deepest gorges in the world. We will then visit the Yunnan Nationalities Museum, which shows influence of Tibetan Buddhism as well as the local Naxi religion. We will explore near the lakeshore, then visit Ziyun (Purple Cloud) Monastery, which was carved into cliff-side alcoves during the Song Dynasty about a millennia ago. At that time, this area was inhabited by scholar farmers from many parts of Asia. The nearby village of Bai, was until recently a station along China’s ‘silk’ railway with railcars from Tibet. Bai is situated on the old Tibet Road between China and Tibet, and formed the northern source of livelihood for several Naxi villages. Stay in the traditional Naxi courtyard house and enjoy the scenery and get to know the Naxi way of life as part of the daily tour.

This morning we will visit Songzanlin Lamasary, the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Yunnan. This complex, with its multi-pillared assembly hall and canal-lined alleys, and private gardens add color to the Tang Dynasty, more than a millennia ago.

Day 17 – Kunming to Shangri-la

This morning we will visit Songzanlin Lamasary, the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Yunnan. This complex, with its multi-pillared assembly hall and canal-lined alleys, and private gardens add color to the Tang Dynasty, more than a millennia ago.

Day 17 – Kunming to Shangri-la

This morning we will visit Songzanlin Lamasary, the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Yunnan. This complex, with its multi-pillared assembly hall and canal-lined alleys, and private gardens add color to the Tang Dynasty, more than a millennia ago.

Day 17 – Kunming to Shangri-la

This morning we will visit Songzanlin Lamasary, the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Yunnan. This complex, with its multi-pillared assembly hall and canal-lined alleys, and private gardens add color to the Tang Dynasty, more than a millennia ago.

Day 17 – Kunming to Shangri-la

This morning we will visit Songzanlin Lamasary, the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Yunnan. This complex, with its multi-pillared assembly hall and canal-lined alleys, and private gardens add color to the Tang Dynasty, more than a millennia ago.

Day 17 – Kunming to Shangri-la

This morning we will visit Songzanlin Lamasary, the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Yunnan. This complex, with its multi-pillared assembly hall and canal-lined alleys, and private gardens add color to the Tang Dynasty, more than a millennia ago.

Day 17 – Kunming to Shangri-la

This morning we will visit Songzanlin Lamasary, the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Yunnan. This complex, with its multi-pillared assembly hall and canal-lined alleys, and private gardens add color to the Tang Dynasty, more than a millennia ago.

Day 17 – Kunming to Shangri-la

This morning we will visit Songzanlin Lamasary, the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Yunnan. This complex, with its multi-pillared assembly hall and canal-lined alleys, and private gardens add color to the Tang Dynasty, more than a millennia ago.

Day 17 – Kunming to Shangri-la

This morning we will visit Songzanlin Lamasary, the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Yunnan. This complex, with its multi-pillared assembly hall and canal-lined alleys, and private gardens add color to the Tang Dynasty, more than a millennia ago.

Day 17 – Kunming to Shangri-la

This morning we will visit Songzanlin Lamasary, the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Yunnan. This complex, with its multi-pillared assembly hall and canal-lined alleys, and private gardens add color to the Tang Dynasty, more than a millennia ago.