

Exclusive to Australian Museum Members

DINOSAUR ODYSSEY

WITH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM
PALAEONTOLOGIST
DR YONG YI ZHEN

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14 DAYS
15 - 28 OCTOBER 2013

During our Dinosaur Odyssey study program, we will visit two of the most exciting dinosaur sites in China - Zigong Dinosaur Museum, in the Sichuan Province and Dinosaur Valley, in the Yunnan Province. Our Program Leader, Yongyi Zhen, palaeontologist from the Australian Museum, will take us to behind-the-scenes places, attend lectures with researchers and field studies at the dig sites, with first-hand experience at an archaeological Dinosaur dig.

This program also explores several World Heritage sites including: the Leshan Grand Buddha, one of the largest stone cut Buddhas in the world; the Jinsha Museum site; a geological phenomena - the Stone Forest near Kunming; the Old city of Dali, the beautiful old township of Lijiang; and of course a visit to the Panda Sanctuary.

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TOP 5 THINGS WE'LL EXPERIENCE

- 1 Visit Zigong Dinosaur Museum, one of the richest dinosaur fossil burial sites in China and one of the top 3 dinosaurs museums in the world.
- 2 First-hand experience at an archaeological Dinosaur dig and lectures with researchers.
- 3 Encounter several World Heritage sites including the Leshan Grand Buddha, built during the Tang Dynasty.
- 4 Explore Dinosaur Valley in Lufeng with the largest concentration of dinosaur fossils and best conservation program in the world.
- 5 Experience some of the most beautiful and diverse landscapes in China, from Tiger Leaping Gorge, Erhai Lake and Cangshan Mountain.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 CHENGDU

Today we board our international flight from Sydney to Chengdu with China Eastern (same day arrival). On arrival in Chengdu airport, we will be transferred to our hotel. After check in there will be time to relax.

Accommodation Hotel Tianfu Sunshine in Chengdu.

DAY 2 ZIGONG

This morning we board our coach to Zigong. Here we visit the Historical Museum of the Salt Industry, built in 1736 as the Xiqing Guildhall during the first year of Emperor Qianlong's rule. Funded by the Shaanxi salt traders, it was used as a meeting place for salt merchants from Shaanxi province the main conduit for the Zigong salt. This is the only museum which studies and displays the cultural relics of salt industry in China. It was established with Den Xiaoping's sponsorship.



Accommodation Hotel Huidong in Zigong for 2 nights.

DAY 3 ZIGONG

Today, we will enjoy a full day visit to the Zigong Dinosaur Museum, a large-scale local museum and one of the richest dinosaur fossil burial sites in China. Together with, the American National Dinosaur Park and the Canadian Dinosaur Park, The Dinosaur Museum is known as one of top three dinosaur museums the world. It has also been named as one of "the forty best and most famous Chinese scenic tour sites" by the Chinese.

DAY 4 LESHAN

After breakfast we board our coach to Leshan. Here we visit the world's largest sitting Buddha, the Leshan Giant Buddha. Built during the Tang Dynasty (618-907AD), it is carved out of a cliff face that lies at the confluence of the Minjiang, Dadu and Qingyi rivers in the southern part of Sichuan province in China, near the city of Leshan.

Accommodation Hotel Jinhaitang in Leshan for 1 night.

DAY 5 CHENGDU

We visit Jinsha site Museum in Chengdu, a world-class museum which focuses on the ancient SHU culture. The site shares similarities in burial objects with the Sanxingdui site. Ivory, jade artifacts, bronze objects, gold objects and carved stone objects were found at the site. In the afternoon our Program Leader will take us to visit the Jinli Old Street, once the commercial heart of the old

kingdoms, this ancient street has now been fully restored in traditional Sichuan style. This evening we will enjoy a performance of Sichuan Opera and the renowned Face Changing Show.

Accommodation Hotel Tianfu Sunshine in Chengdu for 2 nights.

DAY 6 CHENGDU

This morning we visit the Giant Panda Research Base in time for the pandas' morning feed. In the afternoon we travel to the historic Dujiangyan Irrigation System, an irrigation infrastructure built in 256 BC during the Warring States Period of China by the Kingdom of Qin. Located on the Min River, it is still in use today and irrigates over 5,300 square kilometers of land in the region.



DAY 7 KUNMING

Board our morning flight from Chengdu to Kunming. On arrival we will transfer to our accommodation. In the afternoon, we enjoy a guided tour of Lufeng Dinosaur Museum, the site of numerous Jurassic dinosaurs discoveries, the first of which was in 1938. The most well-known is Lufengosaurus, a Jurassic prosauropod. More recently, teeth and a skull of Ramapithecus, a Miocene period primate related to the orangutan have been found in Lufeng. This museum houses the most ancient and primitive vertebrate fossils as well as the largest amount of specimens in the world. Lufeng also boasts the largest concentration of dinosaur fossils as well as the best conservation program in the world.

Accommodation Hotel Xiongbao in Chuxiong for 1 night.

DAY 8 DALI

After breakfast we board our coach to Dali County. In the afternoon we visit The Three Pagodas in Dali,



about 1 kilometre northwest of the ancient city of Dali, occupying a scenic location at the foot of Mt. Cangshan with over 1,800 years of history. As its name implies, Three Pagodas are made of three ancient independent pagodas forming a symmetrical triangle.

Accommodation Hotel Landscape in Dali for 1 night.



DAY 9 LIJIANG

This morning we experience the majestic scenery of Cangshan Mountain during our cruise on Erhai Lake. In the afternoon, we board our coach to Lijiang. It is said there is a land of fairies beneath the colourful clouds of southern China. A place blessed with fresh air, clear streams, breathtaking snow mountains and an undisturbed landscape inhabited by friendly locals. We then continue our journey by coach to our hotel in Lijiang.

Accommodation: Hotel Lijiang Impression Old Town in Lijiang for 2 nights.

DAY 10 LIJIANG

Today we explore Yuhu Village, the last village in the Lijiang Basin at the foot of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. In 1922, the famed botanist, Sir Joseph Rock chose as his home for 27 years. In the village one can still see his houses and examples of tools used in his daily life.



Rock, an Austrian, wrote many articles for the National Geographic magazine on the cultural and history of the people in this region. These articles brought him fame and were said to have inspired the novel Lost Horizon, by James Hilton.

In the afternoon we visit Black Dragon Pool, one of the most beautiful parks in all of Lijiang. Here, a tower houses numerous pictures and drawings on its beams, pillars, doors and windows. Today, this tower is used as a museum in which many precious historical cultural relics as well as calligraphic and paintings are displayed. We also visit the Old Town of Lijiang, a well-preserved old city of ethnic minorities with a brilliant culture. The Old Town is a central in the Lijiang Autonomous County of the Naxi Ethnic Minority in Yunnan Province.

DAY 11 KUNMING



After breakfast we transfer by coach to Tiger Leaping Gorge. Here we enjoy one of the finest treks through some of the most naturally beautiful and diverse landscapes China has to offer. On the way to Tiger Leaping Gorge we will see many Naxi minority villages, beautiful mountain with terraced fields full of mustard flowers and other plants. From the top of the gorge we look down the steeply angled (70-90 degrees) mountain sides to the rushing Golden Sands (Jingsha) River with its 18 frothing rapids more than 200 metres below. This afternoon we transfer to the airport for our flight from Lijiang to Kunming. On arrival we will transfer to our hotel.

Accommodation Hotel Jinjiang in Kunming

DAY 12 KUNMING

Today we travel by coach to Jiuxiang Karst Cave, where we enjoy a tour of Jiuxiang with its "museum of karst caves". The site boasts around one hundred karst caves each with amazing stalactites, stalagmites and stone pillars formations. In the afternoon we visit Stone Forest, a notable set of limestone formations located in Shilin Yi Autonomous County, Yunnan Province, approximately 120 kilometres from the provincial capital Kunming. The rocks seem to emanate from the ground in the manner of stalagmites, with many looking like petrified trees thereby creating the illusion of a forest made of stone. These formations, caused by the dissolution of limestone, are believed to be over 270 million years old and are a popular attraction. Since 2007, this site has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We then board our coach back to Kunming.

DAY 13 KUNMING - INFLIGHT

Our program concludes after breakfast at hotel. There will be some free time before our late check out and transfer to the airport for our international flight with China Eastern to Sydney (overnight).

DAY 14 SYDNEY

Our China Eastern flight is scheduled to arrive in Sydney this morning.



PRICING

Price	\$6,490 per person twin share
Single Supplement	\$480
Ex	Sydney

ENQUIRIES

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**EXCLUSIVE TO AUSTRALIAN
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PROGRAM LEADER



Dr. Yong Yi Zhen

Yong Yi Zhen has worked for the Palaeontology Department of the Australian Museum in Sydney since 1996. Prior to that he had some ten years as a researcher at University of Queensland, University of Sydney and Macquarie University.

Before coming to Australia he was an Assistant Professor working on palaeontology, stratigraphy and palaeogeography at the Institute of Geology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing for four years. He completed an MSc degree at the Peking University in 1982 and a PhD at the University of Queensland in 1990.

During his 30 years as a professional palaeontologist Yong Yi has mainly focused on the studies of fossil corals, sponges, and conodonts (a group of microfossils, which is widely used as index fossils in dating and correlating the rocks), and their applications in biostratigraphy, palaeobiology and geology. As a world expert on these fossil groups, he has published nearly 100 scientific reports, peer-reviewed journal articles, monographs, book chapters, and books. In recent years, he has been a research leader based at the Australian Museum in cooperation with many internationally renowned palaeontologists from Australia, New Zealand, China, Europe and North America, conducting and participating in numerous field collecting trips in eastern Australia and China.

INCLUSIONS

- Return international economy flights from Sydney to Chengdu and Kunming to Sydney.
- Economy flights from Chengdu to Kunming & Lijiang to Kunming.
- Departure taxes and fuel surcharges.
- 12 nights hotel accommodation in 4 star hotels on a twin share basis.
- 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches & 12 dinners.
- Services of specialist program leader for the duration of the program.
- Transport in comfortable and modern coaches.
- Gratuities and necessary tips.
- Visa processing fees for Australian and New Zealand passport holders.
- English-Speaking local guides in each city.
- All excursions, sightseeing and entrance fees as per the program.

EXCLUSIONS

- Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls and laundry.
- Bottled water and drinks.
- Comprehensive travel insurance.
- Additional sightseeing, entrance fees and meals not stated in the itinerary.