

10 Days Western Sichuan Panorama Tour with Yading, Danba & Mount Siguniang

Trip overview

Unveil the untouched beauty of the Tibetan plateau on this **10-Day Western Sichuan Panorama Tour (AOT-TCD-025)**. Starting and ending in **Chengdu**, this deep overland expedition traces the legendary **G318 Sichuan-Tibet Highway** into the heart of the ancient Kham region.

Journey across high mountain passes above 4,000 meters to reach **Daocheng Yading Nature Reserve**—the *"Last Pure Land on Earth"*—where three sacred snow peaks guard turquoise glacial tarns like **Milk Lake** and **Five-Color Lake**. Along the way, immerse yourself in authentic Khampa Tibetan culture in high-altitude **Litang**, capture golden landscapes in the photographer's haven of **Xinduqiao**, admire ancient stone watchtowers nestled in fairytale-like **Danba Jiarong Villages**, and trek beneath the dramatic granite spires of **Mount Siguniang** ("the Oriental Alps"). Accompanied by experienced local guides and private chauffeured vehicles, this all-inclusive itinerary offers a seamless balance of natural marvels, cultural heritage, and high-alpine adventure.

- **Durations:** 10 Days
- **Destinations:** Chengdu - Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture - Chengdu
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://www.asiachinatour.com/10-days-western-sichuan-panorama-tour/>

Itinerary

Day 1: Welcome to Chengdu — Airport Pick-up & Evening Leisure

Welcome to Chengdu, the famed home of the Giant Panda! Upon arrival at **Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport (CTU)**, **Chengdu Tianfu International Airport (TFU)**, or **Chengdu East Railway Station**, your dedicated local guide and private driver will greet you at the arrival hall for a seamless transfer to your downtown hotel.

After check-in, enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure to relax or explore the city's relaxed pace on your own. In the evening, enhance your arrival experience with optional local activities: attend a dramatic **Sichuan Opera Performance** featuring traditional mask face-changing (*Bian Lian*), or take a peaceful 30-minute night cruise along the illuminated **Jinjiang River**.

Meals: Excluded (Self-arranged)

Accommodation: Hotel in Chengdu (4-Star Hotel)

Expert Journey Insights:

Chengdu is exceptionally well connected via high-speed rail and direct international flights. High-speed train connections from Xi'an take just 3 to 4 hours, while routes from Chongqing take only 1.5 to 2 hours. Private airport transfers ensure direct door-to-hotel transit regardless of your arrival terminal.

Day 2: Journey to the Kham Plateau — Kangding, Zheduo Mountain Pass & Xinduqiao

Depart **Chengdu** after breakfast and head west across the lush Sichuan Basin, passing through the renowned "Rainy City" of **Ya'an**. Travel via the **Yakang Expressway** and cross the engineering marvel of the **Erlang Mountain Tunnel** to reach **Kangding**, the historic capital of the Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, famous worldwide for the traditional "*Kangding Love Song*".

Ascent into the highlands via the winding roads of **Zheduo Mountain Pass** (4,298 meters)—known as the "First Pass of Kham"—which marks your official entrance into the high-altitude Tibetan Plateau. On clear days, take in breathtaking vistas of **Mount Gongga** ("King of Shu Mountains," 7,508 meters). Continue into **Xinduqiao**, widely celebrated as the "*Photographer's Corridor*" for its undulating pastures, golden poplars, Tibetan stone houses, and peaceful herds of yak and sheep. Conclude your day with a drive down to **Yajiang County** for hotel check-in.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Selected Hotel in Yajiang County

Expert Journey Insights:

*Today's driving route between **G318 (Zheduo Mountain)** and **S434 Airport Road (Honghai Lake)** will be flexibly selected based on real-time weather and traffic conditions to ensure optimal safety and views. As you enter high-altitude territory, we strongly advise avoiding showers or baths during your first 2 to 3 days to prevent catching a cold and triggering altitude sickness. Additionally, since high-altitude Tibetan areas can occasionally experience brief power or water interruptions, bringing a small flashlight and personal wet wipes is highly recommended for added convenience.*

Day 3: Khampa Heritage & High-Altitude Glaciers — Litang to Daocheng

Set out from **Yajiang** across high-altitude mountain passes, navigating the switchbacks of the **Heavenly Road with Eighteen Bends**, crossing the **Scissor Bend Tunnel**, and ascending **Kazila Mountain Pass** (4,718 meters). Arrive in **Litang** (4,014m), the high-altitude town celebrated in the poetry of Tsangyang Gyatso (the 6th Dalai Lama) and the home of cultural ambassador Ding Zhen.

Explore **Letong Ancient Town**, the world's largest traditional Tibetan village complex comprising over 13 historic hamlets. Walk through its preserved lanes to visit the **318 Memory Museum**, **Khampa People Museum**, **Renkang Ancient House**, and **Tsangyang Gyatso Museum**.

Afterwards, tour **Litang Monastery (Changqingchun Ke'er Monastery)**, built in 1580 by the Third Dalai Lama as a premier Yellow Hat (Gelugpa) center housing gilded statues, Buddhist scriptures, and intricate butter sculptures.

Drive onward across the **Wuliang River** and past the jagged silhouette of **Rabbit Mountain Pass** (4,696 meters) into the primordial **Haizi Mountain Nature Reserve** (4,500 meters). Marvel at the ancient glacial remnants of the **Daocheng Ice Cap**, where 1,145 shimmering alpine tarns (*haizi*) dot a vast sea of granite boulders. Pass through **Sangdui Town** (home to the seasonal **Sangdui Red Grassland**) before arriving in **Daocheng** to photograph the impressive 37-meter **Daocheng White Pagoda**, surrounded by 512 brass prayer wheels.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Selected Hotel in Daocheng County

Expert Journey Insights:

*Today's scenic drive crosses four high-altitude mountain passes exceeding 4,000 meters; emergency portable oxygen canisters are provided in your private vehicle to ensure safety and comfort throughout the transit. Please note that while **Litang Monastery** may occasionally adjust its visiting areas during official religious ceremonies, autumn travelers passing through **Sangdui Town** between late September and late October will have the rare opportunity to witness the vibrant, seasonal crimson hues of the famous **Sangdui Red Grassland**.*

Day 4: Yading Nature Reserve | Chonggu Monastery, Pearl Lake, Xiannairi

Depart **Daocheng County** after breakfast for the legendary **Daocheng Yading Nature Reserve**, celebrated as the "*Last Pure Land on Earth*" and documented by explorer Joseph Rock in 1928 as the true soul of Shangri-La.

Upon arrival at the scenic park entrance, board the park sightseeing bus to **Zhaguanbeng** and begin your short-route trek (approx. 3 km round-trip, 2–3 hours). Walk up to **Chonggu Monastery** (3,880m), a sacred Gelug Buddhist sanctuary set against dramatic mountain backdrops. Continue along the boardwalk to the alpine meadows of **Chonggu Grassland** (4,020m), taking in views of the crystal-clear river and the snowy spire of **Mount Xianuoduoji** (5,958m). Hike an additional 30 minutes up to **Pearl Lake (Zhoma La Tso)** (4,120m), an emerald tarn mirroring prayer flags, ancient forests, and the imposing peak of **Mount Xiannairi** (6,032m). Conclude your day with check-in at **Yading Village**, where clear nights offer spectacular views of the plateau starry sky.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel / Lodge in Yading Village

Expert Journey Insights:

*Because main tour vehicles cannot enter the core scenic area, please leave your large suitcases in the vehicle and pack a light overnight backpack with warm layers, rain gear, toiletries, and essentials for your stay in **Yading Village**. Accommodation within the village consists of rustic, converted Tibetan homes where water and power supplies can occasionally fluctuate, so keeping a small flashlight or headlamp handy is recommended. Finally, as food options inside the reserve are limited, be sure to pack water and energy snacks for the trail, and exercise caution around local wildlife along the **Pearl Lake** path by refraining from feeding or petting them.*

Day 5: Yading Village - Yading Nature Reserve - Daocheng County

Enjoy breakfast in **Yading Village** before transferring to **Zhaguanbeng** to embark on the famous long-route exploration of **Daocheng Yading Nature Reserve**. Travel to **Luorong Pasture** (4,150m)—either via a scenic hike past **Chonggu Monastery** or a convenient battery car ride. Here, serene alpine pastures wind past crystal streams under the gaze of Yading's three sacred peaks: **Mount Xiannairi** (Chenrezig), **Mount Yangmaiyong** (Jampelyang), and **Mount Xianuoduoji** (Chanadorje).

For those seeking the ultimate alpine trek, push forward along the high trail to **Milk Lake (Niunai Hai)** (4,600m), a turquoise glacial tarn cradled beneath jagged snow peaks. Continue an additional 300 meters uphill to marvel at **Five-Color Lake (Wuse Hai)** (4,500m–4,700m), where shifting light creates vibrant multi-hued reflections against the surrounding ice fields. After taking in these bucket-list vistas, trek back to **Luorong Pasture**, collect your luggage from **Yading Village**, and exit the reserve to drive to **Daocheng County** for your hotel stay.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Daocheng County

Expert Journey Insights:

Today's trek to Milk Lake and Five-Color Lake involves high elevations exceeding 4,600 meters along rugged mountain paths; while optional local horse rentals operate along parts of the lower trail, the final steep ascent requires good physical fitness, warm windproof clothing, and proper pacing. Optional battery cars between Chonggu Monastery and Luorong Pasture (approx. RMB 70 round-trip) offer a great way to save energy for the upper lakes, and daily visitor caps apply to the fragile upper lake basin during peak season.

Day 6: Return Journey Through the Khampa Corridor — Daocheng to Xinduqiao

Enjoy a leisurely morning and breakfast in **Daocheng** before embarking on a scenic drive back through the heart of Western Sichuan toward **Xinduqiao**. Your journey traces back through emerald high-altitude meadows framed by gleaming glaciers and grazing yaks.

As you re-ascend toward **Litang**, admire the vast golden grasslands dotted with fluttering prayer flags and distant views of sacred mountain peaks. The highway then winds down into the valley, following the turquoise waters of the **Yalong River** through **Yajiang County**, where lush pine forests contrast dramatically against ochre cliffs and cascading roadside waterfalls. Arrive by late afternoon in **Xinduqiao**, the famous "*Photographer's Paradise*," where traditional stone Tibetan homes nestle amid golden fields and poplar groves.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Xinduqiao

Expert Journey Insights:

*Today's drive back across the high plateaus offers a second chance to capture stunning photography of **Litang** and **Xinduqiao** under changing weather and light conditions. As you re-descend from higher elevations toward Xinduqiao (3,460 meters), your body will naturally begin to adjust to lower altitudes, making this a comfortable and relaxing transit day with plenty of scenic roadside pull-offs.*

Day 7: The Holy Prairie & Ancient Watchtowers — Xinduqiao to Tagong & Danba

Set out after breakfast from **Xinduqiao** toward **Tagong**, driving through high-alpine landscapes with distant views of **Mount Gongga** (7,556m). Arrive in **Tagong** ("A Land Favored by Bodhisattva") and visit **Tagong Monastery**, a 1,000-year-old Sakya sect sanctuary known as the "*Little Jokhang Temple*." Legend holds that Princess Wencheng left a replica of the 12-year-old Shakyamuni Buddha statue here on her journey to Lhasa. Afterward, step onto the expansive **Tagong Grassland**, where grazing yaks dot the pastures beneath the dramatic snow spire of **Mount Yala** (5,884m).

In the afternoon, descend from the high plateau into the warm, lush valleys of **Danba County** (approx. 111 km, 2.5 hours), celebrated as one of China's most beautiful rural regions. Stop at **Suopo Village** to marvel at the highest concentration of ancient stone watchtowers in the world. From the village viewpoint, take in sweeping vistas of quadrilateral, pentagonal, and hexagonal towers rising among traditional white-walled Jiarong Tibetan homes and autumn foliage. Conclude your day with check-in at a boutique hotel in **Zhonglu Tibetan Village**.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel / Boutique Lodge in Zhonglu Tibetan Village, Danba

Expert Journey Insights:

*Today's journey transitions dramatically from the high, windy grasslands of **Tagong** (3,730m) down to the sheltered valley of **Danba** (approx. 1,800m), offering a noticeable relief from high-altitude conditions and warmer evening temperatures. When visiting **Tagong Monastery**, please remember to follow traditional Tibetan customs by circumambulating clockwise and taking photos only in designated outdoor courtyard areas.*

Day 8: Fairytale Jiarong Villages & Journey to the Oriental Alps — Danba to Siguniangshan Town

Begin your morning with a relaxing stroll through **Zhongluxiang**, a idyllic Jiarong Tibetan settlement nestled at the base of sacred **Mount Moerduo**. Walk among terraced farmlands and white-walled, red-trimmed stone houses interspersed with ancient stone watchtowers. Ascend to a elevated viewpoint to capture sweeping vistas of the village framed by spring pear blossoms or golden autumn foliage.

In the afternoon, leave **Danba County** for a scenic 2.5-hour drive (105 km) along mountain river gorges toward **Siguniangshan Town**, the gateway to **Siguniang Mountain** (known as the "Oriental Alps"). Check into your hotel upon arrival and enjoy a peaceful evening surrounded by dramatic alpine peaks.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Siguniangshan Town

Expert Journey Insights:

*Today's drive from **Danba** (approx. 1,800m–2,100m) to **Siguniangshan Town** (approx. 3,200m) involves a moderate gain in elevation; taking a leisurely walk in **Zhonglu Tibetan Village** during the morning provides excellent gentle activity as your body readies for higher alpine trails*

tomorrow. Be sure to carry a windproof jacket as evening mountain winds in Siguniangshan Town can bring sudden drops in temperature.

Day 9: Sanctuary of the Alpine Queens — Changping Valley Trekking or Shuangqiao Valley Exploration

Fuel up with breakfast in **Siguniangshan Town** before embarking on an unforgettable exploration of **Mount Siguniang National Park**. Board the eco-shuttle to **Lama Temple**, the official trailhead for **Changping Valley** (3,300m–3,700m). Your trek begins along scenic wooden boardwalks, winding past ancient Tibetan shrines, plunging gorge waterfalls, and serene mountain tarns framing weathered driftwood trees at **Kushutan** and **Xiagan Haizi**.

Transition onto natural alpine trails as you penetrate deeper into the valley toward **Muluozi**. Trace pristine snow-melt streams through ancient sea-buckthorn groves, natural red-rock fields (**Hongshitan**), and high alpine meadows where yaks graze against the backdrop of snow-capped glaciers and the sheer granite face of **Yaomei Peak** (the youngest of the Four Sisters). After taking in these dramatic close-up vistas of the peak, return along the valley trail to **Lama Temple** for your shuttle ride back to town.

Alternative Leisure Option — Shuangqiao Valley: For a relaxed, non-hiking experience, explore **Shuangqiao Valley** (2,900m–3,850m) entirely via sightseeing bus. Ride to the top of the valley to admire the **Larch Forest**, then make scenic downhill stops at **Potala Peak**, **Sanyi Haizi**, and **Bonsai Beach** for effortless photography.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Siguniangshan Town

Expert Journey Insights:

The full round-trip hike in Changping Valley to Muluozi covers roughly 14 to 20 kilometers across a mix of wooden boardwalks and natural dirt trails; wearing sturdy waterproof trekking boots, dressing in breathable layers, and packing light trail snacks will make your day far more comfortable. If you prefer to save your energy or adapt to weather conditions, the optional horse rental service in Changping Valley or the fully paved bus tour of Shuangqiao Valley provides fantastic alternative ways to take in Mount Siguniang's alpine scenery.

Day 10: Panoramic Mountain Passes & Giant Panda Sanctuaries — Siguniangshan Town to Chengdu

After breakfast, meet your guide and driver to begin your scenic return journey from **Siguniangshan Town** to **Chengdu**. As your vehicle climbs out of the valley, make a photo stop at **Maobiliang Ridge** (Cat's Nose Ridge), the premier observation deck for panoramic vistas of Siguniang Mountain. Weather permitting, gaze across the valley at all four snow-capped peaks standing in a dramatic line, including the formidable summit of **Yaomei Peak**.

Continue along winding mountain highways crossing **Mount Balang** before descending toward the lush, sub-tropical forests of **Wolong National Nature Reserve**.

Optional Excursion — Wolong Shenshuping Panda Base: Enhance your journey with a stop at the **Wolong Shenshuping Giant Panda Base**, nestled deep within natural bamboo habitat. Observe giant pandas roaming semi-wild enclosures and learn about ongoing conservation efforts in Sichuan's premier panda sanctuary.

Upon arrival in **Chengdu**, your guide and driver will escort you directly to your hotel, **Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport (CTU)**, **Chengdu Tianfu International Airport (TFU)**, or **Chengdu East Railway Station** for your onward departure.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: / (End of Tour)

Expert Journey Insights:

*Today's drive descends rapidly from high-altitude alpine terrain down to the Sichuan Basin, crossing **Mount Balang Pass** where sudden fog or mountain rain can occur; keeping a warm layer easily accessible in your backpack ensures a comfortable stop at the **Maobiliang Ridge** viewpoint. If you choose to add the **Wolong Panda Base** visit, budget an extra 1.5 to 2 hours to fully explore the park before continuing to Chengdu for evening flights or train connections.*

Booking Policy

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation by Customer

- Cancellation received before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 20% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 40% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 70% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

Children Policy

The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults.

- For infant (<04 years old): Free of Charge
- 04 - 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate
- 04 - 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
- Above 11 years old with extra bed: 100% adult rate

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