

Lijiang City

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Lijiang is also the name of a river in the Guangxi province of China.

Old Town of Lijiang¹

UNESCO World Heritage Site



State Party  China

Type Cultural

Criteria ii, iv, v

Identification no. 811

Region² Asia-Pacific

Inscription History

1997

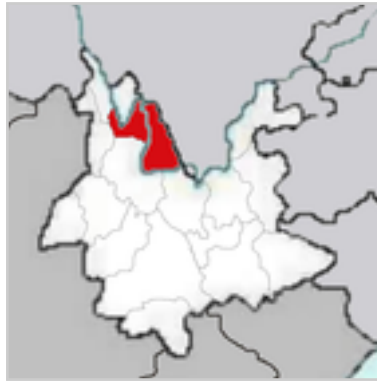
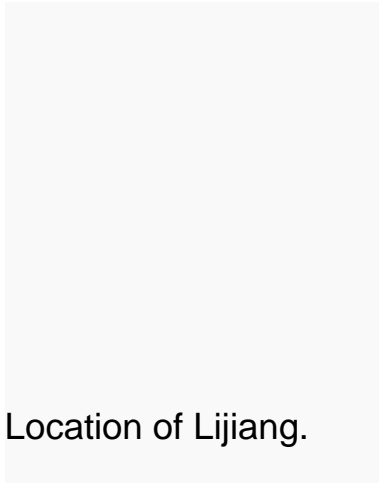
Formal Inscription:

21st WH Committee Session

WH link: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/811>

¹ Name as officially inscribed on the World Heritage List

² As classified officially by UNESCO



Location of Lijiang.

Lijiang City (**Chinese**: 丽江市; **pinyin**: Lìjiāng shì) refers to an administrative division comprising of urban and rural areas in northwestern **Yunnan** Province, **People's Republic of China**. Its population is 1,100,000. The famous "Lijiang old town" (as it is commonly known) is more correctly called the Dayan old town (大研古镇).

Lijiang City is a fairly large geographical area that comprises one district (the old town district) and four counties, including the Lijiang new town, Dayan old town, Shuhe old town (束河古镇), Baisha old town (白沙古镇), and parts of the **Tiger Leaping Gorge**.

The Lijiang old town has a history going back more than 800 years and was once a confluence for trade along the old tea horse road. The Lijiang old town is famous for its orderly system of waterways and bridges. It has been called the "**Venice of the East**".

The old town of Lijiang differs from other ancient Chinese cities in architecture, history and the culture of its traditional residents the **Naxi** people, therefore people there are called 胖金哥 and 胖金妹 (male and female respectively).

One third of the town was destroyed by an earthquake in February **1996**.

Lijiang old town (including Dayan, Baisha and Shuhe) was registered on the **UNESCO World Heritage List** in December 4, 1997. Since then, the local government has taken more responsibility for the development and protection of the old city. Lijiang's tourism also boomed, and travellers from around the world flooded in; although many locals fear

that due to much of the development, the old town of Lijiang will lose its appeal.

Recently, the government has started to develop additional "old city" sections adjacent to the site of the original old city. This is to accommodate the large number of tourists, particularly Han Chinese, who walk the cobblestone streets (cars are not allowed in the old city), typically as part of package tours. Evenings in the old city can be particularly rowdy, not least due to the many outdoor bars, where boisterous groups of tourists try to "out sing" other groups.

Transportation

Lijiang airport, located approximately 20 km south of the town, opened in 1994.

External links



Wikimedia Commons has media related to:

Lijiang

- [Lijiang travel guide](#) from Wikitravel
- [Picture gallery](#)
- [Maps of Lijiang](#)
- [UN World Heritage Site Old Town of Lijiang](#)
- [Yunnan Government website on administrative divisions in Yunnan Province](#)
[\(Chinese\)](#)

Prefecture-level divisions of Yunnan

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[Qujing](#) | [Simao](#) | [Yuxi](#) | [Zhaotong](#)

Autonomous prefectures: [Chuxiong](#) | [Dali](#) | [Dehong](#) | [Dêqên](#)

[Honghe](#) | [Nujiang](#) | [Wenshan](#) | [Xishuangbanna](#)

List of Yunnan County-level divisions



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Coordinates: [26°53′N 100°14′E](#)

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