

# LUX\*

TEA HORSE ROAD  
BENZILAN, CHINA



**At the core of the LUX\* Tea Horse Road lies the promise of exploring nature at its best, introducing reinvigorating experiences set to enlighten the spirit and nurture the body.**

**Just a few snow-capped peaks away from the Ancient Town of Lijiang, the original trail of the caravans continues its way north across the verdant valley of Benzilan. Laying at the shores of the Yangtze River and protected by the high mountains, this authentic Tibetan village is now home to the LUX\* Tea Horse Road's second boutique hotel, LUX\* Tea Horse Road Benzilan opening late 2015.**

A gateway to the glacier of Meili Snow Mountain National Park, LUX\* Tea Horse Road Benzilan is located at the entrance of Benzilan village. Considered the only mountain retreat of the area, this boutique hotel encompasses local culture across the main building's architectural elements coupled with signature LUX\* service inspired by unrivalled Tibetan hospitality.

From the Tibetan word 'bozilan' meaning

'golden sandbar', the valley offers mild climatic conditions throughout the year, making it the perfect base to explore the surrounding glaciers or venture off the beaten tracks on hidden mountain trails. Originally famous along the Tea Horse Road for its sturdy and fearless horsemen, Benzilan has preserved its authenticity and opens an extraordinary window onto the Tibetan culture to those ready to venture along the LUX\* Tea Horse Road.

## **Reasons to go LUX\* Tea Horse Road Benzilan**

Whether you are aiming to conquer Meili Snow Mountain's peaks or simply stroll among breathtaking scenic trails to reenergize your body, LUX\* Tea Horse Road Benzilan is where you will immerse yourself with the Tibetan locale. The perfect place to try the local organic produce or to start your day with a refreshing morning meditation overlooking the legendary Yangtze River before heading to the nearby monasteries, LUX\* Tea Horse Road Benzilan promises authentic experiences inspired by the Tea Horse Road.

## **Location**

Benzilan Town, Deqin County.  
84Km from Shangri-La.

## **Contact details**

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## Must do experiences

Enlightening travellers with sensory experiences, LUX\* Tea Horse Road Benzilan presents a wide selection of activities linked to its sister property LUX\* Tea Horse Road Lijiang along the LUX\* Tea Horse Road journey.

### Hike with local mountaineers

Whether on a quest for mushrooms or willing to conquer new heights, you will be accompanied by local mountaineers to discover how the caravans used to make their way through the mountains. These hikes are more enjoyable for those with high fitness levels, but if you can't reach the peak your guide will be on hand to tailor the trail.

### Dine as the locals do

Local dinner parties are a must-do in Benzilan. Your Tibetan host, however, will make sure you don't leave the house with an empty tummy. To dine with a Tibetan family is an incredible experience, whether you like to feast on local produce or typical Yak meat specialties, be warned! Meals often end up with a round of homemade barley whiskey and a square dance to enlighten the tranquil village life. Bon Soiree!

### Learn a thing or two

A story known only by a few, ancient caravans used to cross Benzilan on their way to Lhasa to collect a precious local handcraft, the Nixi black pottery. If hiking your way around is not for you, your guide can usher you to an authentic laboratory to get your hands in the clay and learn from the masters how to shape these unique pieces of Tibetan art.

### Chant to the Kawagebo

Few kilometers away from Benzilan rests the lamasery of Dongzhulin, a spiritual place of rare tranquility. In time, cheerful monks have received traders, muleteers and travelers of all sorts and today they welcome you to chant with them to the major peak of the Meili Snow Mountain, the sacred Kawagebo.

## Accommodation

Reflecting architectural elements of local wooden residences, LUX\* Tea Horse Road Benzilan offers tranquil views of the riverside. Each of its 30 rooms and suites, located on two levels across the two main buildings, are adorned with distinctive Tibetan touches fused with a light color palette and airy living spaces.

The main building welcomes the hotel's guests in a spacious lobby featuring a star-roofed terrace overlooking the river. At night, impromptu movies under the stars, storytellers around the centered fireplace and local baristas at the signature Café LUX\* are just few of the pop up delights which can be found here.

The hotel's infinity pool is located meters away from the rolling waves of the Yangtze River with stunning views of the surrounding mountains dotted with farms, wooden houses and small temples.

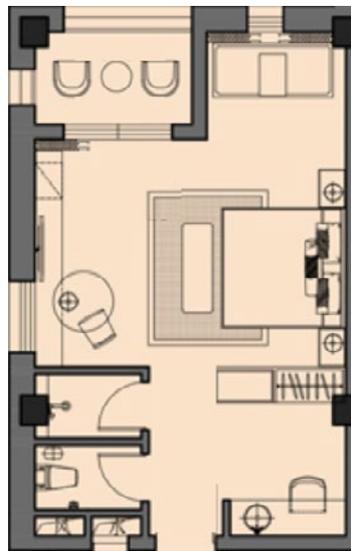
### LUX\* Tea Horse Road Benzilan provides:

- 22 Superior King Rooms  
Including 4 Interconnecting Rooms
- 6 Superior Twin Rooms
- 2 LUX\* Suites

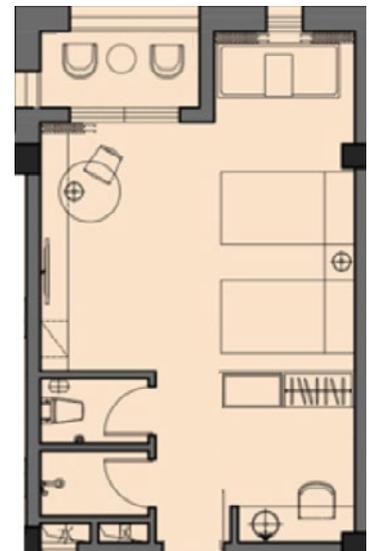
### LUX\* SUITE, 90 SQM



### SUPERIOR KING ROOM, 45SQM



### SUPERIOR TWIN ROOM, 45SQM



## Food for thought

### All-day Dining Restaurant

With a selection of local specialties and all-time western favorites, this buffet restaurant surprises with a la carte options hand-picked from the daily menu and designed by the resident chef. Overlooking the riverside with floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows, the main dining area stretches over 150sqm. In order to present the freshest wares that the valley has to offer, breakfast, lunch and dinner are served to reflect seasonality and embrace local traditions.

Breakfast: 07:30 - 10:00

Lunch: 12:00 - 14:00

Dinner: 18:00 - 21:00

### Private Dining Lounge

Designed for small banquets and receptions, the private dining lounge features a relaxation area while the dining table can seat up to 20 guests. The warm interior décor combined with the views of the surrounding mountains create a laid-back atmosphere where guests can either enjoy a traditional Tibetan meal or a tailor-made menu especially created by the resident chef.

Opening hours based on reservations.

### Café LUX\*

Traded along the Tea Horse Road as well as salt and sugar, coffee beans were often outshined by tea leaves. At Café LUX\*, coffee is not only served but masterfully ground at the hotel by our local baristas. While moderate consumption is recommended at high altitudes, you are invited to a real coffee experience while at the hotel as Benzilan rests at only 1900 meter above the sea level.

### The Teahouse

Open throughout the day, the Teahouse is the place to enjoy a cup of Pu'er tea and learn the secrets from the master of its numerous infusions and the healing powers of its leaves. The caravans treasured tea as gold and the legacy continues through timeless tea ceremonies upon your wish.

### The Chamadao Library

From the sunny southern hills of Yunnan, your journey has taken you to high mountains trails. Discover hidden maps, the secrets of the local black pottery and plan your next day out with the maps you will find at the Chamadao library (Chinese words for Tea Horse Road). A space designed to inspire and help you create your journey.

