

# Orchids in The Wild

## Spring in Yunnan, China



**Hengduan Mountains Biotechnology Ltd.**

Chengdu, Sichuan, P.R. China - [www.hengduanbiotech.com](http://www.hengduanbiotech.com)

四川横断山生物技术(有)



## April 16-April 27, 2019

Tour led by Wenging Perner (Hengduan Biotechnology), Hong Jiang (Kunming Forestry Research Institute) and Mary Gerritsen (Orchid Conservation Alliance)

### TRIP SUMMARY

This “Orchids in the Wild” trip to western Yunnan begins in Kunming (Yunnan Province) China on April 16 with the arrival of our trip members from various parts of the world.

We leave Kunming the next day and travel west towards the ancient city of Dali and from there to the West Cangshan mountains along the border with Myanmar, then south and further west to Tenchong, Yingjiang and Mangshi. We will visit various nature preserves and beautiful mountains along the way. Orchids we expect to see include *Pleione yunnanensis*, *Pleione aurita*, *Calanthe*, *Eria*, *Dendrobium*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Chiloschista*, *Oberonia*, *Coelogyne*, *Gastrochilus*, and *Vandopsis* species. In the Tongbiguan Nature Reserve we should also see hornbills and other unusual bird species. We return to Kunming on April 26, with flights home on April 27.





Dali City, Yunnan

## DAILY ITINERARY

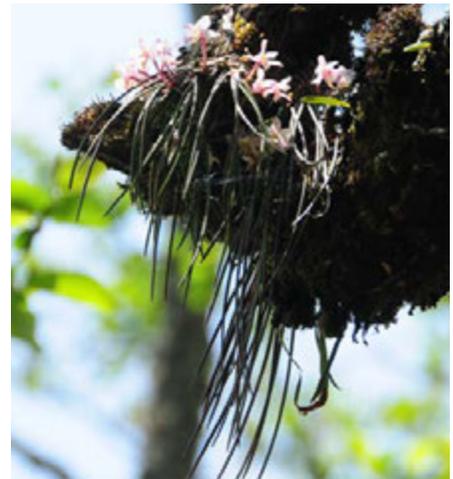
**April 16.** Arrival in Kunming. Travelers arriving a day or two earlier may make arrangements to visit sites in and around Kunming (not included in tour pricing, but can be arranged ahead of time) Overnight in Kunming.

**April 17.** We begin our travels via chartered bus to the ancient city of Dali. This city lies along northwestern Yunnan's former trade route to Tibet, and is popular with Chinese tourists who come here to see how Chinese towns used to look before modernization. The town is full of old houses and the indigenous Bai and Yi (ethnic groups) populations. We will visit the beautiful old town contained within Ming Dynasty walls. Dali was at the center of the Nanzhao and Dali kingdoms, which at their peak encompassed Yunnan, Burma, Laos and Thailand. The old town was destroyed by an earthquake in 1925 but was rebuilt in its former style. Overnight in Dali.

**April 18.** We travel by bus to the West Cangshan mountains, where we will visit the habitats of *Holcoglossum sinicum*, *Pleione albiflora*, and several species of *Coelogyne*. Overnight in Dali.

**April 19:** We travel by bus from Dali to Caojian. Along the way, we will explore Zhiben mountain, visiting the habitat of *Pleione forrestii* and many gorgeous rhododendrons, which should be in peak bloom. Overnight in Caojian.

**April 20:** Today we explore Caojian area, where we should see *Pleione yunnanensis* and *Pleione aurita*. Overnight in Luishui.

*Pleione albiflora**Holcoglossum sinicum**Coelogyne corymbosa*



*Pleione forrestii*

**April 21:** Today we travel from Luishui to Tengchong, exploring Mt. Gaoligong. We expect to see *Calanthe*, *Eria* and other orchids. Overnight in Tengchong.

**April 22:** Today we will explore the Tengchong area, where we should observe *Gastrochilus*, *Eria* and *Dendrobium* species. Overnight in Tengchong.



*Gastrochilus obliquus*



*Rhododendron* sp.

**April 23.** Today we travel from Tengchong to Yingjian, on the way exploring Tengjiang. We should see *Dendrobium*, *Coelogyne*, *Gastrochilus* and other orchids. Overnight in Yingjiang.



*Dendrobium lituiflorum* and *D. chrysotoxum*



*Dendrobium lituiflorum*



Gary Yong Gee finds *Paphiopedilum armeniacum*



Tour participants photographing epiphytic orchids

## Key Dates

### Dec 1, 2018

Deposit (\$500 per person) due. The tour is limited to 14 participants, and to reserve a place on the tour, we need your deposit!

### February 1, 2019

Balance of trip costs due. Refund of deposit can not be made after this date.

### April 16, 2019

Plan to arrive in Kunming. There are direct flights to Kunming from San Francisco, or connections can be made through Shanghai, Beijing or other major Chinese cities. Be sure to allow for the date change.

### April 27, 2019

End of tour. Participants return home from Kunming, or may make arrangements to visit other parts of China.

### Point of contact

All questions about tour details should be addressed to Mary Gerritsen, OCA tour group coordinator

[mary@orchidconservationalliance.org](mailto:mary@orchidconservationalliance.org)

### Payment information

Checks should be made **payable to the Orchid Conservation Alliance** and mailed to:

Mary Gerritsen, OCA Treasurer

541 Parrott Drive

San Mateo, CA 94402

International travelers, contact Mary Gerritsen

([mary@orchidconservationalliance.org](mailto:mary@orchidconservationalliance.org)) for bank transfer information.



*Eria gagnepainii*

**April 24-25:** We explore Tongbiguan Nature Reserve. This habitat has *Vandopsis*, *Dendrobium*, *Gastrochilus* and other orchids, as well as beautiful hornbills. Overnight in Yingjiang both nights.

**April 26:** We travel from Yingjiang to Mangshi by bus, then fly from Mangshi to Kunming. Overnight in Kunming.

**April 27:** End of tour, flights from Kunming to home.



*Pleione aurita*

### Level of Activity and Accommodation

Walks in the reserves generally take 3 to 4 hours and can be on a variety of paths, some slippery and narrow, others easy and flat. Some climbing can be expected. Participants should wear good hiking shoes and walking pole(s) are highly recommended. A suggested packing list will be provided for all travelers. In general a good fitness level and open mind will be required. Bus journeys should be a maximum of 6 to 7 hours, but most of these are then followed by a few days in one locality. We will stay in comfortable and sometimes even luxurious hotels throughout the trip. The cuisine is wonderful, and there are lots of vegetarian options. Check with your physician to determine any immunizations or other precautions (e.g. medications to prevent altitude sickness). All travelers must carry a traveler's health insurance policy that includes coverage for medical evacuation.

### Tour Costs

**Double Occupancy** (shared accommodation) \$4200

**Single Occupancy** \$4700

**If you would like to have a roommate to reduce costs please let us know, and we will do our best to match you with another traveler.**

To ensure a spot on the tour, submit your \$500 deposit as soon as possible.

#### Included:

- Accommodation at all hotels mentioned in the itinerary.
- Meals as specified (basically full board throughout)
- Vehicle, fuel, driver and guides throughout the tour
- Internal flight
- Taxes, tolls and entrance fee and guided walks at all parks/reserves in the itinerary.

#### Not included:

- Alcoholic drinks
- Tips
- International flights. Participants to make own flight arrangements
- Chinese visa (must be arranged in advance through Chinese embassy or consulate)
- If desired, participants can make their own arrangements for pre- or post tour trips to other parts of China or southeast Asia.



*Vandopsis undulata*

**Our Tour Guides**

**Wenqing Perner** is the owner/proprietor of Hengduan Biotechnology Ltd. a Chinese-German company in Chengdu specializing in the culture of Chinese orchids, including *Cypripedium* and *Paphiopedilum* species and hybrids. She also maintains a high elevation orchid nursery in Huanglong. Wenqing and her late husband Holger have led yearly orchid and wildflower tours throughout Sichuan and Yunnan for more than a decade.



**Hong Jiang, Ph.D.** is a professor at the Kunming Forestry Institute and is Yunnan's leading authority on orchids. He is a co-author of a beautifully illustrated book "The Wild Orchids of Yunnan". Hong lives in Kunming.



**Mary E. Gerritsen, Ph.D.** is the Chief Financial Officer of the Orchid Conservation Alliance. This will be her sixth botanic tour to China, all of them with Wenqing and her late husband Holger Perner. Mary is a former president of the San Francisco Orchid Society and the Peninsula Orchid Society (San Mateo), a member of the board of directors of The Orchid Digest, and a co-author of several orchid books including *A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species*; *Masdevallias, Gems of the Orchid World*; *A Bay Area Guide to Orchids and Their Culture*; and *the American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and Their Culture*. She lives and grows her orchids in San Mateo, CA.