

The Mystical Journey through the South of the Clouds in Southwest China

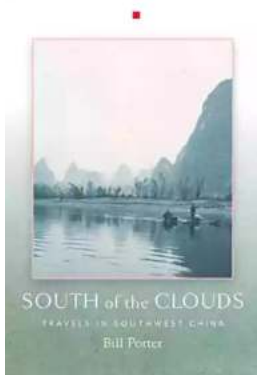
Imagine a land filled with awe-inspiring landscapes, vibrant cultures, and mouthwatering cuisine. Nestled within the Yunnan province of China, the South of the Clouds is a region that offers an unforgettable travel experience. From the snow-capped mountains to the lush green valleys, this enchanting destination captures the hearts of adventurers from around the world.



Exploring the Hidden Gems

Southwest China is a treasure trove of hidden gems waiting to be discovered. This region is home to the breathtaking Tiger Leaping Gorge, one of the world's

deepest canyons. As you stand mesmerized by the roaring Yangtze River below, you can't help but feel the raw power of nature at its finest.



South of the Clouds: Travels in Southwest China

by Bill Porter(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 37787 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 284 pages



Another must-visit destination in this region is Dali, a tranquil ancient town located at the foot of the Cangshan Mountain. Stroll through the historic streets, explore the vibrant local markets, and immerse yourself in the rich Bai cultural heritage. The nearby Erhai Lake offers a peaceful retreat with its sparkling blue waters and surrounding mountain scenery.

Embracing Cultural Diversity

One of the most captivating aspects of the South of the Clouds is its cultural diversity. This region is home to numerous ethnic minority groups, each with its own customs, traditions, and languages. From the Bai, Yi, and Naxi people to the Tibetans and Hui Muslims, the tapestry of cultures in Southwest China is unrivaled.



Visit the ancient town of Lijiang, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its well-preserved Naxi architecture and vibrant local traditions. Experience the traditional Dongba culture and witness their intricate pictographic script. Explore the Dongba Cultural Research Institute and gain insight into the fascinating history of this unique minority group.

Culinary Delights

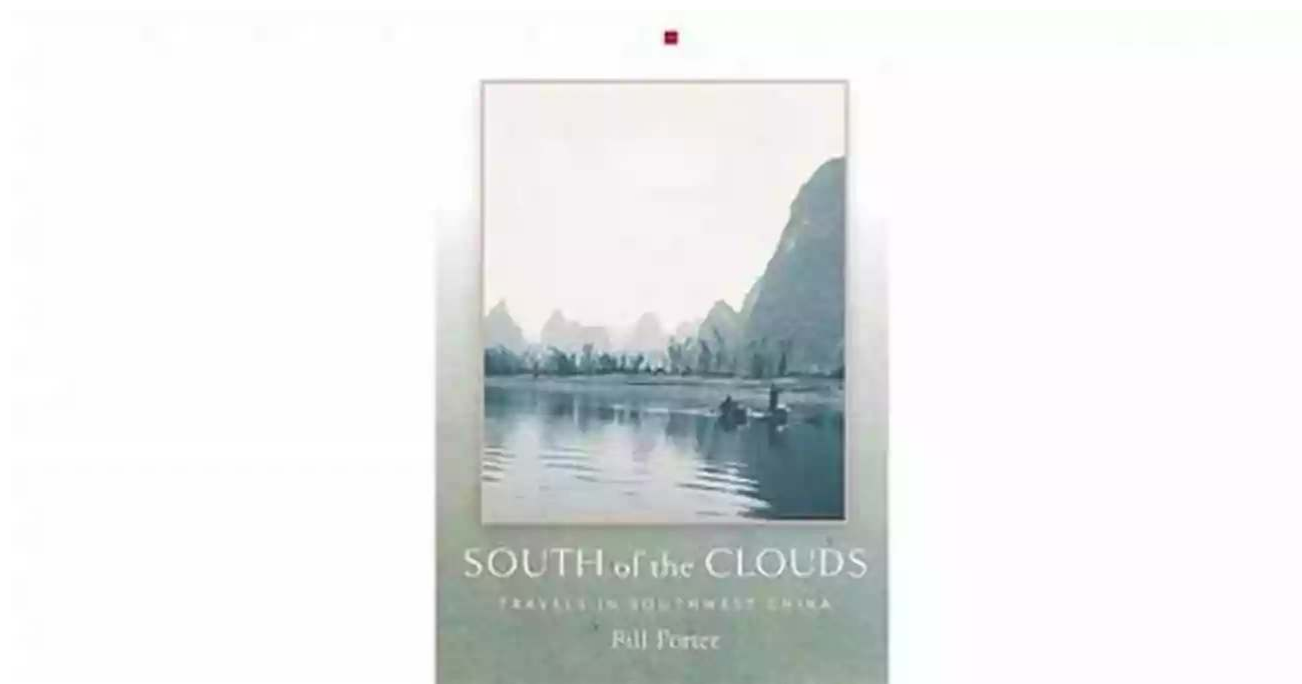
A journey through the South of the Clouds is not complete without indulging in its culinary delights. Yunnan province boasts a diverse cuisine with influences from its neighboring countries, including Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar. Prepare your taste buds for a burst of flavors as you embark on a culinary adventure.

Try the famous Crossing the Bridge Noodles, a Yunnan specialty that involves adding fresh ingredients to a bowl of boiling chicken broth. Taste the unique blend of flavors in the Yunnan ham, known for its delicate and aromatic profile. Don't

forget to sample the Pu'er tea, a well-known Chinese tea produced in the Yunnan region.

Planning Your Journey

As you plan your journey to the South of the Clouds, there are a few things to consider. The best time to visit is during the spring and autumn seasons when the weather is mild and pleasant. Be prepared for varying altitudes, as the region ranges from high mountain peaks to lower valleys.



Pack comfortable clothing and sturdy footwear, as you'll be doing a fair amount of exploring. Don't forget to bring a camera to capture the breathtaking landscapes and unique cultural experiences.

The South of the Clouds Awaits

Embark on a mystical journey through the South of the Clouds in Southwest China and be prepared to be captivated by its beauty, cultural diversity, and

culinary delights. Whether you're an adventurous trekker or a cultural enthusiast, this region has something for everyone. Lose yourself in the enchanting landscapes, immerse yourself in the vibrant cultures, and savor every moment of this unforgettable travel experience.

So pack your bags, leave the worries behind, and let the South of the Clouds guide you into a world of wonder and discovery.

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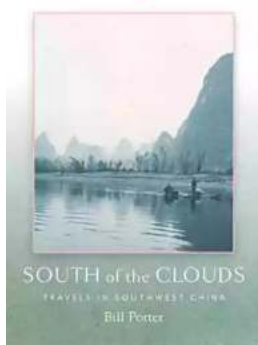
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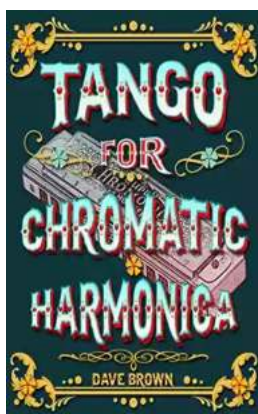


While flipping through the atlas of Chang Ch'i-yun, one of China's most famous geographers, distinguished translator Bill Porter (Red Pine) developed a curiosity about the southwestern province of China. Dubbed Yun-nan, "South of the Clouds," this was the last area modern China to come under Chinese control. Originally conquered by the Mongols and eventually introduced to foreigners as a vibrant setting for trade, Yun-nan became a critical crossroad connecting East and West.

In 1992, Porter left his home in Hong Kong to tour the small towns and major cities of Yun-nan, studying each of their local cultures and larger impacts on the

trajectory of Chinese history. Here, he shares his encyclopedic knowledge of the nation's beautiful legacy while introducing new insight about the province's landscapes, people, and recent state of affairs. He visited Bulang Mountain, where the local people had no written language of their own, so they sent their children to live as monks in nearby Tai temples to learn Tai script. He saw women in Lijiang who wore traditional sheepskin jackets that bore seven frogeyes without clear explanation. In Dali, a small town turned urban center, he recalls a massive museum built to show off the city's new wealth, only to have half of its halls left empty and unvisited.

The first of a series of three China travel memoirs to be published by Soft Skull, Bill Porter's book tells the incredible story of a spread of land with a thousand years of human history. His remarkable insight and unparalleled understanding of China place this book at the forefront of East Asian travel literature.



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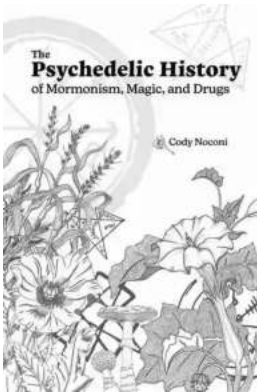
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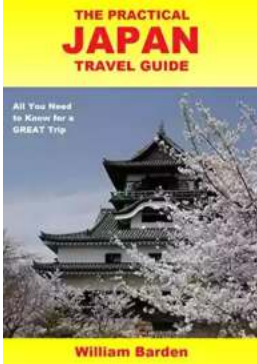
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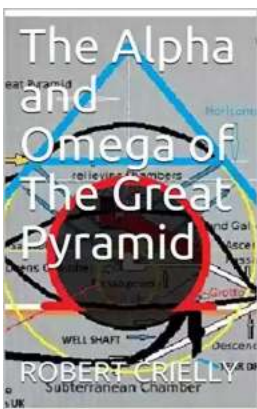
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