

2016 International Camellia Society Congress

February 2016, Dali, China

In February 2016, the International Camellia Society is hosting its biennial Congress in Dali, China. The Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture is located at Southwestern China. Dali Prefecture covers a total area of 29,459 square kilometers with a total population of 3,560,000. The capital of the Prefecture, Dali City is 360 kilometers from Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province. The city is located at the center of Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, surrounded by beautiful mountains and crystal-clear lakes.

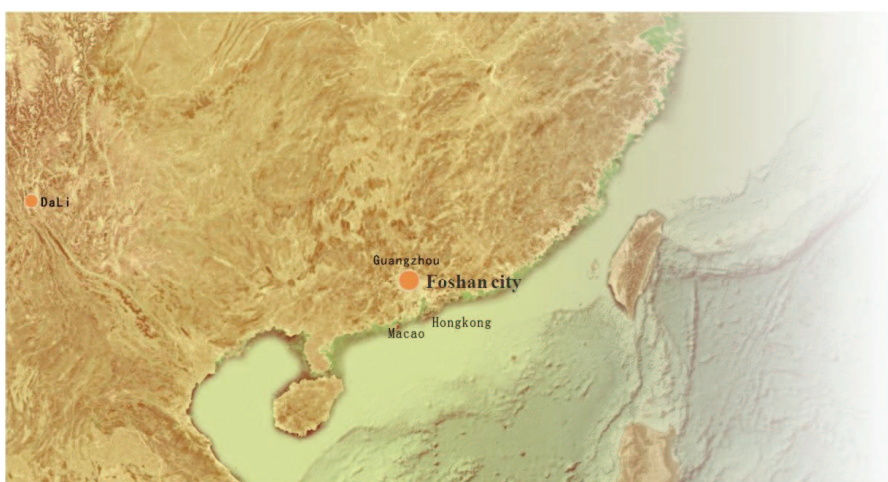


Figure 1: Dali region, China

Within and around the city, there are many relics and places of historical interest. It is the political, economic and cultural center Dali region for over 1000 years. The climate is pleasantly spring-like all the year round. The beautiful scenery, varied traditions and the culture of minority nationalities make Dali a well-known tourist destination. Every year, there are around 22 million tourists from home and abroad visit Dali. Camellias and Dali are closely associated with each other. Dali's camellia cultivation goes back to the 8th century. Over centuries, Dali has cultivated a great number of rare camellia cultivars, many of whom are highly reputed among camellia enthusiasts in the world.



Figure 2: City of Dali

2016 Dali International Camellia Congress is a huge event for the people of Dali Prefecture, and the prefectural government has specifically established a preparing committee and a functioning department to engage actively in the preparations for the congress.



Figure 3. Names of people in the delegation of Dali, China. From the left to the right: Guan Kaiyun, Vice President of ICS & Professor of Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Science; Li Zhidong, Director, Committee for Tourism & Holiday of Dali; Li Yuexing, Director, Bureau of Agriculture of Dali Prefecture; He Hua, Prefecture-Governor, People's Government of Dali Prefecture; Li Fu-an, Mayor, People's Government of Dali City and Duan Zhihong, Director, Foreign Affairs Office of Dali Prefecture.

Pre Congress 18 –20 Feb. 2016

The Pre-Congress tour will start out in Foshan, Guangdong Province, in southern China, site of one of the new ICS Gardens of Excellence. Foshan is a famous cultural city with a long history. It is a city well-known for its martial art, folk art, ceramics and cuisine. Our visit shall enable us to enjoy the city's unique culture, architecture and delicious food including the visit of the Flower World of Chencun Village and the Camellia Garden of the Forestry Institute of Foshan City and others.

Congress 21—26 Feb. 2016

Apart from the normal programs of the congress, some special visits will be arranged during the congress, including the visit to the thousand-year-old Three Pagodas of Chongsheng Monastery, the Ancient Town of Dali, the Butterfly Fountain, the gardens of rurality, the Taoist mountain of Weibao, the Nanzhao Ancient City of Weishan, as well as century-old camellias, Bai houses, and camellia gardens. During the congress, the National Camellia shows of China will be held in Dali and all participants to the ICS Congress will be invited to visit. Another worthy visit will be to the Forest Park of Mount Baotai in Southern Dali, where tens of thousands of hectares of wild camellias and rhododendrons will be seen.

From Feb. 27 Post Congress

Route A: Cangshan Mt.--Xizhou Ancient Town--Lake Erhai--Jizu Mt. in Bingchuan County, Hot Springs in Eryuan County, Shibao Mt. and Shaxi Ancient Town in Jianchuan County and Xinhua Village in Heqing County--Lijiang--Kunming--Departure.

Route B: Cangshan Mt.--Xizhou Ancient Town--Lake Erhai-- Jizu Mt. in Bingchuan County--Xishuangbanna (the wild elephant valley, the forest park, Tropical Botanical Garden, the mountain village of the Jinuo people)--Kunming--Departure.

Route C: Cangshan Mt.--Xizhou Ancient Town--Lake Erhai--Jizu Mt. in Bingchuan County--Kunming (Stone Forest, Golden Temple Park, Kunming Botanical Garden)--Departure.