

KS3 Geography. Life in China

Lijiang

WANG YUXI: My name is Wang Yuxi. I am 11 years old. I live in Lijiang.

NARRATOR: Lijiang is located in the province of Yunnan, in the southwest of China. It's one of China's most famous ancient cities and home to over a million people.

The area around Lijiang is where the Naxi people come from. 'Na' means 'senior and honoured' and 'Xi' means 'people'. Wang Yuxi's family are Naxi.

WANG YUXI: My Dad's a driver. Sometimes he takes me out on trips. I love going out on trips together with my Dad. He knows all the best places to go.

NARRATOR: First stop for Yuxi and his dad is the famous Jade Snow Dragon Mountain on the outskirts of the city of Lijiang.

WANG YUXI: Everyone who lives near the Jade Snow Dragon Mountain believes that it is sacred.

NARRATOR: These mountains give the people water, wood and some natural medicines. Scientists come from all over the world to study the rare plants and animals found here. The peaks are covered in snow all year round and are home to the southernmost glacier in the northern hemisphere.

Not far from these beautiful mountains is Lake Lashihai.

WANG YUXI: This lake is the largest in Lijiang county. The local fishermen fish here, and lots of tourists like to visit. There are loads of fish in this lake; most of them are grass carp. If you take a boat out, you can try some of these fish. A fisherman will grill you some fish. Although the fish has many bones, it's really tasty! It makes me laugh when the fishermen ask the tourists [IN ENGLISH] 'Like a fish?'

NARRATOR: The lake is also a good place for birdwatching.

WANG YUXI: Many birds spend the winter here, then leave in the spring.

- NARRATOR:** Yuxi and his father visit the ancient tea route which begins near the lake. More than 1,000 years ago the locals started using these special horses to carry the tea grown in the fields of Yunnan. The mountain tracks of the tea route - or 'Silk Road' as it's also known - were the best way to transport not only tea but also sugar and salt for trading.
- Traders visited neighbouring provinces like Tibet and Guizhou to sell their goods. But some of traders would trek for hundreds of miles through mountains and forests until they reached the markets of neighbouring countries Burma, Laos and Vietnam.
- Yunnan has great conditions for growing tea: fertile soil, lots of rain, never blisteringly hot, and never freezing cold.
- Yunnan tea has a very special flavour and is enjoyed all over the world. Yuxi and his dad went to a local teahouse to try it for themselves.
- WANG YUXI:** The lady showed me how the horses used to carry the tea. The leaves were squashed into a 'tea brick', and then put into bamboo boxes to protect them from the rain. The most famous Yunnan tea is called 'Pu'er' tea. The tea trail area is home to many Naxi people.
- NARRATOR:** Naxi families like Yuxi's are very close-knit, which probably helps them to keep their traditions alive.
- WANG YUXI:** My family is Naxi. My Grandmother still wears Naxi costume every day. Her costume has seven stars on it. They represent the seven stars of the 'Big Dipper'. Naxi women are extremely hard working. They work from first light into the evening.
- NARRATOR:** Yuxi is off to find his best friend.
- WANG YUXI:** My friend is called Wang Jincheng. We're in the same class together and our Dads are good friends. He lives nearby.
- This is some Naxi writing. This one means to talk. This one means to dance. This one means to eat.
- The yoghurt from this shop is very famous. It's very popular with the tourists. The sweet red beans that you can mix with the yoghurt are really delicious!
- NARRATOR:** A local Naxi wedding is taking place in Lijiang Old Town.

[SINGING AND MUSIC]

WANG YUXI: Singing and dancing are important in Naxi culture.

NARRATOR: Yuxi's hometown of Lijiang really is a beautiful and unique place. And it's no surprise that so many people come here from all over the world to visit.