



SHANGRI-LA AND LIJIANG, CHINA

Banyan Tree Ringha & Banyan Tree Lijiang

LOCATED 140 KM APART, these two majestic properties, both recent Andrew Harper Grand Award winners, draw their inspiration from the local culture, architecture, scenery and ecology. At Banyan Tree Ringha, the materials used to build the property's 31 rustic suites and lodges were originally from authentic Tibetan farmhouses, which were deconstructed and then reassembled into what Mr. Harper calls "stylish" and "very, very spacious." Balconies give each room sweeping views of the stunning surrounding natural beauty.

This resort is set in Shangri-La, a haven named after the fictional paradise referenced in James Hilton's novel "Lost Horizon." Enveloped by towering mountain peaks and natural plateaus, the area is ripe for exploration. Expert Tibetan guides lead private daily excursions on foot and horseback, quenching guests' desire for discovery. Back on property, two restaurants, as well as a teahouse, satisfy the palate with authentic Chinese cuisine.

Further south, Banyan Tree Lijiang, which Mr. Harper calls "unexpectedly luxurious," resides amidst historic surroundings. Known as the "Venice of the Orient," ancient bridges and cobbled streets interweave over the Old Town of Lijiang's many canals. Due to its heritage and ethnic charm, the area is now deemed a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The property's architectural style incorporates local materials, including exotic pink stone and red clay. Curved rooftops

allow for uninterrupted views of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, a massive, awe-inspiring backdrop that has helped protect the region's culture for centuries. The resort boasts 122 villas and suites, many of which include private gardens and pools. Three onsite restaurants and bars serve native cuisine; in-villa private dining is also available; and the Moonlight Pagoda provides a romantic atmosphere for a quiet dinner for two.

Of course, in signature Banyan Tree style, both of these properties boast a Banyan Tree Spa for ultimate relaxation, each incorporating techiques inspired by their respective locales.

Member Benefits: Banyan Tree Ringha Andrew Harper members receive: a reduction off the best available non-restricted rates; an upgrade, when available upon check-in; a 200 RMB spa credit per adult, per stay (not valid on beauty services or promotions); and a one-hour farmhouse experience for two per room, per stay. Recommended since 2009.

Member Benefits: Banyan Tree Lijiang Andrew Harper members receive: a reduction off the best available non-restricted rates; an upgrade, when available upon check-in; daily buffet breakfast; a 200 RMB spa credit per adult, per stay (not valid on beauty services or promotions); and a three-hour guided Shuhe Old Town strolling tour for two per room, per stay. Recommended since 2007.