



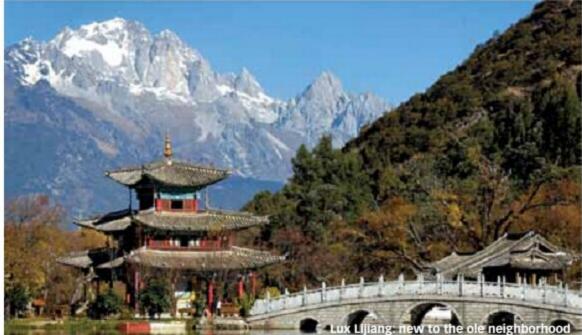


Hong Kong's Most Loathed Professions

852 TRAVEL

**ESCAPE ROUTES** with Kate Springer







## Lijiang in Luxury

Get your fill of heritage and hardcore relaxation in one go: the Lux Lijiang is slated to open this September, and it's a real looker. For one, the 30-room boutique hotel is in the heart of China's Shangri-La region, which remains surprisingly unspoiled. And it's hard to beat the heritage-chic feel of the hotel itselfthink pretty Chinese-style courtyards and peaceful water features juxtaposed with cool, contemporary-style rooms. Culture-seekers will appreciate nearby UNESCO-heritage Lijiang Ancient Town that's ripe for exploring, as well as the Pu'er tea plantations scattered around the countryside. Lux Lijiang is the first of many hotel openings in China from the Lux Resorts & Hotels brand, so watch for more additions across Yunnan, Sichuan and Tibet.

From \$981. 182 Xingwen Lane, Qiyi Street, Gucheng District, Lijiang, China, (+86) 888-559-6666, www.luxlijiang.com.



## History in the Mekong

Calling all cruisers: the all-suite Aqua Mekong, the third vessel from luxury operator Aqua Expeditions, is taking its inaugural sail down the Mekong River this October. But don't expect your average cruise with chaotic kids and buffets galore. This classy ship was designed by Saigon architectural firm Noor Design and is all about sophistication and five-star amenitiesexpect spacious suites, floor-to-ceiling windows, a pool, spa, gym and even a library. Making its way from Cambodia to Vietnam, the boat will make stops in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Chau Doc and Saigon-with plenty of sights and sanctuaries en route.

Seven-day cruise from US\$7,000 (\$54,250) per person; www.aquaexpeditions.com.

## Jetpac, Go!

Ever wondered about the happiest places in Hong Kong? How about the bar with the best view? Get the Webby Award-winning Jetpac City Guides mobile app, which uses a "geoparsing" image processing technology to analyze Instagram photos and sort locations according to your search string. So what does that mean for travelers? Instead of scouring hundreds of online reviews, you can search for surprisingly specific categories, like cafes with the most hipster mustaches. Available in 6,000 locations across the world, Jetpac enables you to easily shortlist spots to visit, or avoid, on your next trip. The app also offers its own written guides, which might include anything from Top 10 hikes to the best food trucks in any given location. And about those happiest places—see them here: tiny.cc/hk-jetpac.

Free in the App Store; www.jetpac.com.

Have a query you need answered or a travel tip you're keen to share? Email me at kate.springer@hkmagmedia.com or tweet@KateSpringer, #hktravels.



