



Jingmai Forest

AN ANCIENT GARDEN OF TEA

The Jingmai tea growing area covers the Lancang County villages of Jingmai and Mangjing. This stretch of 10,000mu cultivated ancient tea gardens has upwards of a thousand years of history. Scholars believe the Jingmai teamountain was first cultivated over 1200 years ago in 696 C.E. by the ancestors of the Bulang people. The next several dynasties saw a succession of tea planting, leading to the current scale of cultivation. The Jingmai Old-Growth Tea Garden is one of the largest conservatories for old tea trees in the world. It is, furthermore, completely protected and one-hundred percent organic, living tea. In all of our travels in Yunnan, we have never visited a place with a greater concentration of tea trees. Unlike the tall trees in Ai Lao, which are very unique due to the altitude and deciduous nature of the forest, the trees in Jingmai are the more typical jungle/rainforest kind of tea tree, with twisted fairy-tale trunks and branches covered in mold, fungus, vines and other species like Crab's Claw, which we had the fortune to add to a bowl or two. The forest here sings of tea—a song that we hope you hear through these pages!



*Our second fifteen-hour bus ride, called
“Letting Go of All Our Ego-Baggage.”*



*Our Jingmai cake, available now,
called “Forest Bridge.”*

*The eldest in our host’s family.
He was eighty-eight this year.*

