

GHOST GUESTHOUSE RECORDS & INVISIBLE INVESTIGATIONS

- All guesthouses, hostels, inns and hotels in China require foreign overnight guests to write their names and passport numbers in guest registers. The Chinese government acknowledged to the U.S. Embassy that it gathered up guesthouse registers while investigating David's case in 2004: "We checked all the hostels and Inns registration books since August 2004 throughout Tiger Leaping Gorge," and "at none of these places is there any information pertaining to persons matching David Sneddon's description."
- David disappeared on August 14, 2004. His Dad and two of his older brothers flew to China within weeks to try and find him. They produced an Executive Report documenting a dozen different witnesses who saw David during and after he safely hiked Tiger Leaping Gorge and in Shangri-La beyond the gorge before he disappeared. Five witnesses confirmed David stayed overnight at two separate guesthouses.
- Four witnesses confirmed David stayed at Tina's Guesthouse at the end of the popular High Trail through Tiger Leaping Gorge. A trail guide who hiked with David for three hours confirmed David successfully transited the gorge and stayed the night with his group when they all arrived at Tina's Guesthouse around ten p.m. Then two employees and the owner of the Walnut Grove guesthouse (just down the road from Tina's) recalled David visiting the next morning and talking with employees about how he'd meant to stay there instead of at Tina's but had not hiked far enough the previous night.
- Another witness who was an employee of a guesthouse in Shangri-La (about seventy miles beyond the gorge) confirmed David stayed at a Youth Hostel and "explained that the police had taken from the guesthouse all the records for foreign visitors." Multiple witnesses then reported seeing David in Shangri-La at two restaurants, a barber shop and discussing prices with a tourist guide – all within a few blocks of the guesthouse.
- The U.S. Embassy repeatedly asked China to investigate the leads identified by David's family, culminating in a personal request by the U.S. Ambassador. China ultimately acknowledged *nine months later* that it conducted investigations. China said its officials "gathered up all the owners and staff of the fifteen hostels along Tiger Leaping Gorge and conducted another round of detailed inquires, but it didn't yield any further clues."
- All key witnesses found in Shangri-La were located just a few minutes' walk from the local police headquarters. David's family reported the leads to the police *face to face* in September 2004. China promised and then refused to share its detailed investigative findings (such as guesthouse records) with the U.S. The U.S. Embassy finally reported that "Chinese officials provided verbal assurances that a written report describing further investigations in more detail would be forthcoming, but none was produced." The U.S. was finally allowed by China to talk to witnesses *ten months after they had interacted with David* and the witnesses largely corroborated their original accounts.



David's Dad, Roy Sneddon, at the Snowland Restaurant of Shangri-La with local guide Dorje and former guesthouse employee (from August 2004 who had just switched jobs from the guesthouse to the restaurant) Ms. Liu Miao who reported to him their interactions with David. These two met David separately, but gave similar descriptions of his size, appearance, clothing, and intentions. Dorje had talked extensively with David about the cost of being guided to local tourist sites and Ms. Miao confirmed David stayed at the guesthouse.

Good news! The guide He Shuchang on the gorge trail [middle] reports to David's Dad that in August 2004 David Sneddon caught up with his group and they traveled together for about three hours on the "High Trail" before stopping for the night at Tina's Guesthouse around 10:00 p.m.



Two employees at the Walnut Grove Guesthouse, and the owner Sean (pictured above at far right since he was also the guide through the gorge for David's Dad and brothers) recalled talking with David around 10:00 AM the morning after he stayed at Tina's Guesthouse. After providing detailed descriptions of David's words, clothes, and even the widow's peak of his hairline, the two women viewed David's picture and exclaimed excitedly in Chinese: "That is him!!"

Shangri-La, looking east along Tuan Jie Jie Street. On the far corner across the street to the left is the Korean Restaurant, the Yak Bar. Continuing east scarcely 100 meters beyond the Yak Bar is the Diqing Tibetan Area International Youth Hostel where Ms. Liu Miao reported David stayed one night. From the hostel one can travel another 40 meters eastward to the Snowland Restaurant, where Dorje, a local guide, reported having met David and talking extensively.

