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On a weekend, it sounds like a symphony warming up, with each individual activity vying for prominence; karaoke, folk dancing, a college kid strumming a guitar.

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THE PERFECT TIME OF YEAR FOR THE SPRING CITY

Diversity, culture and a laid back attitude to life in Yunnan's capital

By Caitlin Dwyer (Photos: Yereh Jansen)

The cab driver's glasses were scored with tiny scratches. He looked back at me through the bars caged around his seat. "I picked up some Beijing people at the airport the other day," he said. "I told them, 'Sorry, it's really cold in Kunming right now.' They just laughed at me. They said, 'You call this cold?'"