Weiyuan, Gansu province is a nondescript out-of-the-way town with one of China’s truly magnificent bridges. The Baling Bridge, built in 1919 as a result of some inspired civic boosterism, was modeled after a well-known bridge in the provincial capital Lanzhou called the Wo [Holding] Bridge that had been destroyed. Spanning 29.4 meters, one third greater than its Lanzhou antecedent, it has a overall length of 44.5 meters and width of 6.2 meters. Sweeping to a height of 15.4 meters above the stream, the roof of the symmetrical gallery reaches even above the surrounding treetops.
In the hilly countryside to the west of Weiyuan, the stepped terraces are painted with the yellow flowers of rapeseed plants.