



[Tour Code: CA-001] **Explore the Ethnic Minority Culture in Southwest China**

Guiyang, Kaili, Langde, Xijiang, Datang, Rongjiang, Congjiang, Zhaoxing, Sanjiang, Chenyang, Longsheng, Guilin, Yangshuo (11 days)

Traveling deep into the mountain area of Guizhou, a province tucked away in Southwest China, we will explore traditional ethnic minority villages inhabited by Miao and Dong groups, and travel further to meet the enigmatic Gejia people, who are unfamiliar to even the (Han) Chinese. We will travel from one village to another, meeting colorfully dressed ethnic minority people selling goods in the markets, making tofu or cultivating rice in their fields. If we are lucky, we might chance upon one of their vibrant festivals, which are held throughout the lunar calendar. This trip offers a unique opportunity to spend time in one of China's most isolated regions, appreciating ancient architectural styles and local customs of the ethnic minorities, while at the same time enjoying the unspoiled beauty of its mountains and valleys.



Day01 Arrive in Guiyang Arrive in Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou. The guide will meet you at the airport. The rest of the day will be left open for you to take a walk to Qianling Park to climb a thousand steps to the old Buddhist monastery. And visit Jiaxiu Pavilion which is the symbol building of Guiyang. (D)

Day02 Guiyang-Kaili Guizhou is nicknamed “the Kingdom of Mountains”, as 87% of its land is comprised of mountains and plateaus. We will leave Guiyang in the morning to drive 200 km (125 mi) along scenic mountainous express way to Kaili - the capital city of Guizhou southeast autonomous prefecture of Miao & Dong people. En route, visit Tonggu Miao village noted as a peasant's painting village. In the afternoon, visit Kaili

folk museum to have an overview of the minority groups in this prefecture. (B-L-D)

Day03 Kaili We will leave in the morning to visit Matang, a quiet village inhabited by the Gejia minority, where we will learn about their culture, of which very little is known. In the afternoon, visit Qingman short-skirt Miao village. Family visit will be arranged. Then, take a coach ride to Shiqiao village to see its traditional way of making paper. Take late afternoon coach back to Kaili. (B-L-D)

Day04 Kaili-Langde-Xijiang A short drive from Kaili along the Bala River will take us to the village of Langde, a real gem with traditional wooden houses and waterwheels. After lunch we will continue our journey to Xijiang, the largest Miao village in China which is located on the slope of mountain. We will stay overnight in the village. (B-L-D)

Day05 Xijiang-Datang-Rongjiang We will continue our drive via Leigong Mountain to Rongjiang through Kaitun Terrace, where layers of terraced rice fields form what appears to be a gigantic staircase on the side of a mountain. In the morning visit Datang short-skirt Miao village. In the afternoon, explore a Shui people village in the deep valley of Leigong mountain. (B-L-D)



Day06 Rongjiang-Congjiang We will take a 3-hour drive to Congjiang, stopping on the way at Basha, a small Miao village with very little signs of modern influence. The people rarely venture out of the village except for selling firewood and shopping for daily necessities in markets, and both men and women can be seen in traditional costumes, wearing their hair long. (B-L-D)

Day07 Congjiang-Zhaoxing A 6-hour drive will take us to Zhaoxing, one of the largest Dong villages in the region, with more than 700 households and a population of 4000. The Dong can be recognized by their turbans (for men) and pleated skirts (for women). They are also known for their architecture, particularly their drum towers, and Fengyuqiaos, or wind and rain bridges, which are pavilions for sheltering people during bad weather. It owns 5 drum towers which symbolizes 5 different family clans. (B-L-D)



Day08 Zhaoxing-Sanjiang-Chenyang From Zhaoxing we will continue our journey south into Guangxi Province to visit Sanjiang, a village inhabited by the South Dong, one of the two subgroups of the Dong ethnic minority. In the morning, explore **Tang'an Dong village**. Upon arrival in Sanjiang, a short drive away will take

us to Chenyang, a quaint little village with one of the largest Fengyuqiaos in the region. Here we will explore the villages on foot. (B-L-D)



Day09 Chenyang-Longsheng-Guilin We will leave Chenyang in the morning to visit Longsheng, where the mountains are covered with terraced rice fields, some of them reaching up to 1,000 m (3,300 ft) peaks. We will drive to Guilin in the late afternoon. (B-L-D)

Day10 Guilin-Yangshuo-Guilin Enjoy a cruising down the Li River, which stretches 83 kilometers from Guilin to Yangshuo. The cruise will give you a chance to savor the lovely view of the area's extraordinary limestone peaks. The cruise ends in Yangshuo. Back to Guilin by car and visit the Reed Flute Cave. (B-L-D)



Day11 Leave Guilin Be transferred to the airport and leave for the next station. (B)

