

# *China Minority*

*Beijing · Guizhou · Guangxi · Shanghai*

# *Explorer*





# Trip highlights

*China is an immense country where you could spend months travelling through its landscapes and still only touch the surface. The Minority Explorer is there for all to see, from impressive archaeological sites and stunning dramatic scenery to the friendly charm of its people, particularly minority people.*

*This tour has been designed to showcase some of China's most amazing sights, yet at the same time allow you a glimpse of the real China, its people, rural backdrops and ever emerging cosmopolitan way of life. China has been an inspiration for photographers and artists alike for centuries.*

*Along the way, discover bustling markets, sample traditional Chinese cuisine and gather an understanding of this fascinating land and its people. This tour will allow you to capture the true wonders of China and it will leave you longing to return.*



# Itinerary

*Beijing (3nts)*

*Guiyang (1n2)*

*Kaili (2nts)*

*Zhaoxing(2nts)*

*Snanjiang (1nt)*

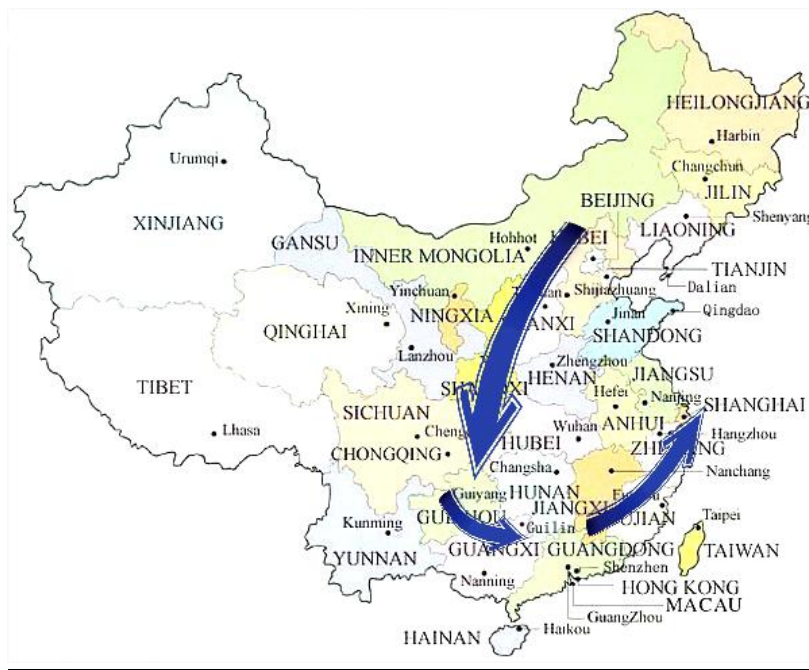
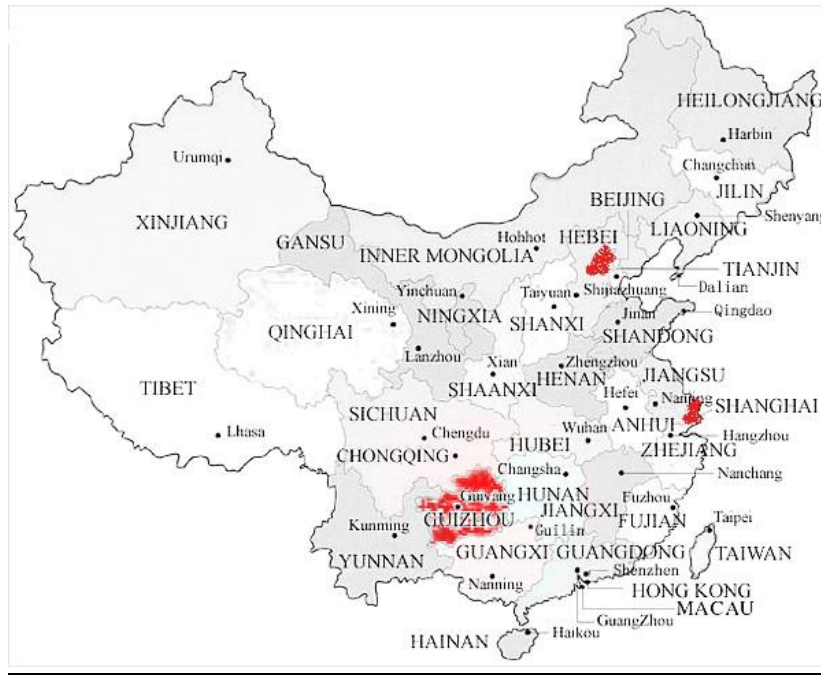
*Longseng(1nt)*

*Guilin(1nt)*

*Li River Cruise*

*Yangshuo(1nt)*

*Shanghai (3nts)*



***Beijing – Guiyang – Kaili – Zhaoxing –  
Sanjiang – Guilin – Longji – Yangshuo - Shanghai***

# Route Map in Guizhou Province



*Guiyang – Kaili – Zhaoxing - Sanjiang*

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# Guizhou Province



## Geography of Guizhou

Guizhou Province, "Qian" or "Gui" for short, is situated in the south-western part of China. The Province covers an area of over 176,167 square kilometres and has population of more than 34.75 million (2010), there are total of 49 nationalities live in Guizhou, including Han, Yao, Miao, Dong, Bouyei, Tujia, Li, Gelao, Sui, Hui, Bai, Zhuang, etc. Guiyang is the capital of the Province. Guizhou occupies the eastern part of the Yungui Plateau, rising between the Sichuan Basin and Guangxi Basin. The Terrain of Guizhou gradually lowers down eastwards, its western and central part having an attitude of one to two thousand meters above sea level. The river valley area on the south-eastern fringe of the province has an altitude of around 500 meter above sea level. Guizhou has a rugged terrain, with numerous precipitous peaks and deep valleys, as well as extensive karsts formations, caves and underground rivers. Many date-shaped mini-basins scatter around the mountains.

## Climate of Guizhou

Guizhou has a humid monsoon climate of the subtropical zone, with neither severe winter nor hot summer. The average annual temperature of province is between 14°C-16°C (57 °F -61 °F). The average temperature of January, the coldest month, is between 4°C-9°C (39 °F - 48°F) and that of July, the warmest month, is between 22°C-26°C (72 °F and 79 °F). The annual average precipitation of Guizhou is between 900-1500mm. Most of the area in the province have long frost-free period, where two or three cropping system is practiced.

## Guizhou Local Cuisine

Braised salamander and Eight Delicacies and Feast of Tianmahan Chicken are famous local dishes with high nutrition. Love Bean Curd Fruit and Bijie Stuffed Dumplings are popular refreshments with diners.

# Quotation Sheet

<b>Tour Name:</b>	BeijingGuiyang/Guangxi/Shanghai
<b>CTS Tour Code</b>	N/A
<b>Period:</b>	March-November

## Brief itinerary in English

Day	City	Program	Meals	Hotel
1	Departure	Depart to Beijing, China		On Board
2	Beijing	Arrive in Beijing Welcomed by your guide and transfer to hotel, Welcome Dinner	L/D	Traders Hotel
3	Beijing	Beijing City Planning Exhibition Hall Tian'anmen Square, Palace Museum(Forbidden City) Lunch Hutong tour: including Rickshaw tour, and visit at a local family Foot massage at Traditional Chinese Medicine (Dinner and Kung Fu show offered, not included)	B/L	Traders Hotel
4	Beijing	Cloisonné Factory, Sacred Way, Ming Tomb-Changling Lunch Great Wall at Badaling Section Peking Duck Dinner at Shichahai with show	B/L	Traders Hotel
5	Beijing Guiyang	AM: Morning flight to Guiyang (reference flight: <a href="#">HU7189 0745/1050</a> ) Arrive in GUIYANG-the capital city of Guizhou province located in southwest of China. Meet your guide at airport. Then 1.5 hour's drive to an Old-Han Chinese village best known for their Ground Opera or Dixi which could be traced back to 600 years age.The operas recreate ancient Chinese tales from the Three Kindoms period(220-265) and Tang (618-907) dynasties. The performers will put wooden mask on their forehead to ensure their voice could be heard by the audience. Women's traditional costumes come with long blue robes and white and black turban. PM: lunch and continue our 1 hour's drive to explore Huangguoshu waterfall noted as the largest on in China which is 84 meters wide and	B/L/D	Hotel Novotel Guiyang Downtown

		101 meters high. Late afternoon coach back to Guiyang.		
6	Guiyang Kaili	<p>AM: 2.5 hours' coach to KAILI along the scenic mountain expressway which is the capital city of Guizhou's Southeast Autonomous Prefecture of Miao &amp; Dong people. Those Miao people who moved to America and Europe are known as Hmong people. Upon arrival, visit local folk Museum to have a pre-understanding of Guizhou's minority groups.</p> <p>PM: 1 hour's drive to Wangba Gejia people village noted for their traditional way of making batik. Family visit will be arranged. Then coach back to Kaili.</p>	B/L/D	Heaven-sent Dragon Hotel
7	Kaili	<p>AM: in the morning, 1 hour's drive to visit Qingman village to experience their daily life by visiting the local families. A welcome ceremony will be arranged. Meanwhile, you can appreciate Miao people's typical architecture---Wooden stilt house. Then drive to Shiqiao to see its traditional way of making paper from the tree bark.</p> <p>PM: a short drive from Kaili along the Bala river will take us to Jiadao Long-skirt Miao village. You will be greeted into the village by drinking the black way wine and see their traditional way of spinning and weaving. A performance will be arranged. Then a short hiking (30 minutes) from Shuidian to Paika will be arranged to see the water wheel which is the most important irrigation system in Guizhou. Visit a local family noted for making bamboo reed pipe. (Lusheng, Miao people's traditional musical instrument)</p>	B/L/D	Heaven-sent Dragon Hotel
8	Kaili Zhaoxing	AM: morning 3.5 hour's drive to Zhaoxing-the largest Dong people's village in China with more than 800 households and a population of 5000. It owns five drum towers symbolizing five different family clans. En route, we will appreciate the picturesque view of terraced fields and see Dong people's typical architecture: Drum Tower and Wind & Rain Roofed bridge.	B/L/D	Zhaoxing Inn

		PM: afternoon explore Zhaoxing Dong village and visit the local families. Night performance of Dong people's Chorus Songs and dance.		
9	Zhaoxing	AM: morning visit Tang'an Dong village noted as the first ecological museum of Dong people. Then 2 hours' hiking will be arranged from Tang'an to Zhaoxing. En route, visit Xiage Dong village.  PM: visit Jitang Dong village nearby.	B/L/D	Zhaoxing Inn
10	Zhaoxing Sanjiang	AM: morning 3.5 hours' drive to Sanjiang. En-route, visit Diping Wind & Rain bridge.  PM: in the afternoon, upon arrival at Sanjiang, a short drive will take us to Chenyang Wind & Rain bridge noted for being the largest one in China. Explore and hike in the Dong villages nearby will be very enjoyable. Drive back to Sanjiang.	B/L/D	Fengyuqiao International Hotel
11	Sanjiang Longsheng	Morning bus drive to Longshen Enjoy rice Terrance rice field, Minority Village Red Yang Nationality Combing Evening bus back to hotel	B/L/D	Star Wish Hotel
12	Guilin	Free morning in Longsheng After lunch bus back to Guilin (100KM-2 hours drive), Reed Flute Cave Dinner in Guilin Watch cormorant fishing	B/L/D	Bravo Hotel
13	Guilin Yangshuo	Boat cruise on the Li River to Yangshuo, Lunch on board, Free activity, Evening enjoy Impression of Liu San-Jie show	B/L/D	Sovereign Hotel
14	Yangshuo Shanghai	Transfer to airport for afternoon flight to Shanghai (Reference flight: <a href="#">MU5382 1430/1635</a> ) Arrive in Shanghai, welcome by guide and transfer to hotel	B/L/D	Equatorial Hotel Shanghai
15	Shanghai	Day tour (included) The Bund, Stroll from north to south. Go to Yu Yuan Garden and appr. 45 minutes free time in old Shanghai. Eat lunch at Lubolang. Go to SWFC and platform 100. Back to Hotel.	B/L/D	Equatorial Hotel Shanghai

		Dinner Sail a tour at Huangpu River. Back to hotel		
16	Shanghai	Free day (Tour to Zhujiajiao will be offered, extra) Evening Free time.	B L with tour	Equatorial Hotel Shanghai
17	Shanghai	Take maglev train to Transfer to the airport for the departure flight to your country (>2 hours arrive at the airport before departure time) <b>End of Service</b>	B	

### Selected Hotel Information

City	Hotel Name	Standard	Contact Information
Beijing	Traders Hotel by Shangri-La 国贸饭店 <a href="http://www.shangri-la.com/en/property/beijing/traders/details">http://www.shangri-la.com/en/property/beijing/traders/details</a>	Deluxe 4 star	No 1 Jianguomenwai Avenue Beijing 100004, China T: (86 10) 6505 2277
Guiyang	Hotel Novotel Guiyang Downtown 贵阳诺福特酒店 <a href="http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-8032-novotel-guiyang-downtown/location.shtml">http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-8032-novotel-guiyang-downtown/location.shtml</a>	4 star	Address: No.8 Zhonghua South Road, Nanming District, Guiyang 550001, China Tel: 0851 588 1888
Kaili	Heaven Sent Dragon Hotel 腾龙酒店 <a href="http://www.chinahighlights.com/hotel/kaili-hotels/heaven-sent-dragon-hotel.htm">http://www.chinahighlights.com/hotel/kaili-hotels/heaven-sent-dragon-hotel.htm</a>	4star	Address: No.8, Ningbo East Road, KailiTel: 86-855-8066666
Zhaoxing	Zhaoxing Inn 肇兴宾馆 N/A	3 star Local best	Zhaoxing Street, Zhaoxing County, Liping county 557300, China
Sanjiang	Fengyuqiao International Hotel 风雨桥国际酒店 <a href="http://www.sjfyq.com/">http://www.sjfyq.com/</a>	3 star Local best	Add: Minzu Square, Sanjiang Country, Liuzhou Tel: 0772-8580888
Guilin	Bravo Hotel 桂林宾馆 <a href="http://www.glbravohotel.com/">http://www.glbravohotel.com/</a>	4 Star	Address: No. 14 South Ronghu Road Guilin, Guangxi, China 541002 Telephone: (86) 773 2898888
Longsheng	Star Wish Hotel 星愿宾馆 <a href="http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g1159371-d1732115-Reviews-Longji_Star_wish_Resort-Longsheng_County_Guangxi_Zhua">http://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g1159371-d1732115-Reviews-Longji_Star_wish_Resort-Longsheng_County_Guangxi_Zhua</a>	3 Star	Address: Pingan Village, Heping Town, Longsheng County, Guilin China, Telephone: + 860773-7583366

	<a href="#">ng.html</a>		
Yangshuo	Sovereign Hotel 君豪大酒店 <a href="http://www.yangshuohotel.net/en/index.asp">http://www.yangshuohotel.net/en/index.asp</a>	Perspective 4 star	Address: No.28 Guanlian Road, Yangshuo 541900, Guangxi, China, Telephone: + 86 773 8889988
Shanghai	Hotel Equatorial Shanghai 上海贵都 <a href="http://www.equatorial.com/sha">http://www.equatorial.com/sha</a>	Deluxe 4 star	Address: 505 Wulumqi Road (N), Shanghai Tel: 86-21-62480088

<b>Cost includes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complimentary gift for each guest: English Map of Beijing and China</li> <li>2. Complimentary birthday cake and birthday card for the guest who has birthday while traveling in China</li> <li>3. Hotel accommodation in each city with BBF daily</li> <li>4. Service of professional English-speaking guide in each city</li> <li>5. Meals as specified on itinerary</li> <li>6. Escorted sightseeing; Attractions and Cultural Shows Admissions as specified on itinerary</li> <li>7. Ground transportation as specified on itinerary</li> <li>8. Economic class domestic flight ticket: Beijing/Guiyang and Guilin/Shanghai</li> </ol>
<b>Cost excludes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. International airfare to/from China, visa-processing fees, travels insurance.</li> <li>2. Personal expenses such as alcoholic beverages, excess luggage fees, telephone charges, room service and laundry charges</li> <li>3. Gratitude to the guides, drivers and porters in China</li> </ol>
<b>Pls. kindly be advised</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Flight and train schedules are subject to change</li> </ol>

# MUNICIPALITY OF BEIJING

## BEIJING SHI

*Beijing is a metropolis in northern China and the capital of the People's Republic of China.*

*It is one of the four municipalities of the PRC, which are equivalent to provinces in China's administrative structure.*

*The municipality of Beijing borders Hebei Province to the north, west, south, and for a small section in the east, and Tianjin Municipality to the southeast.*

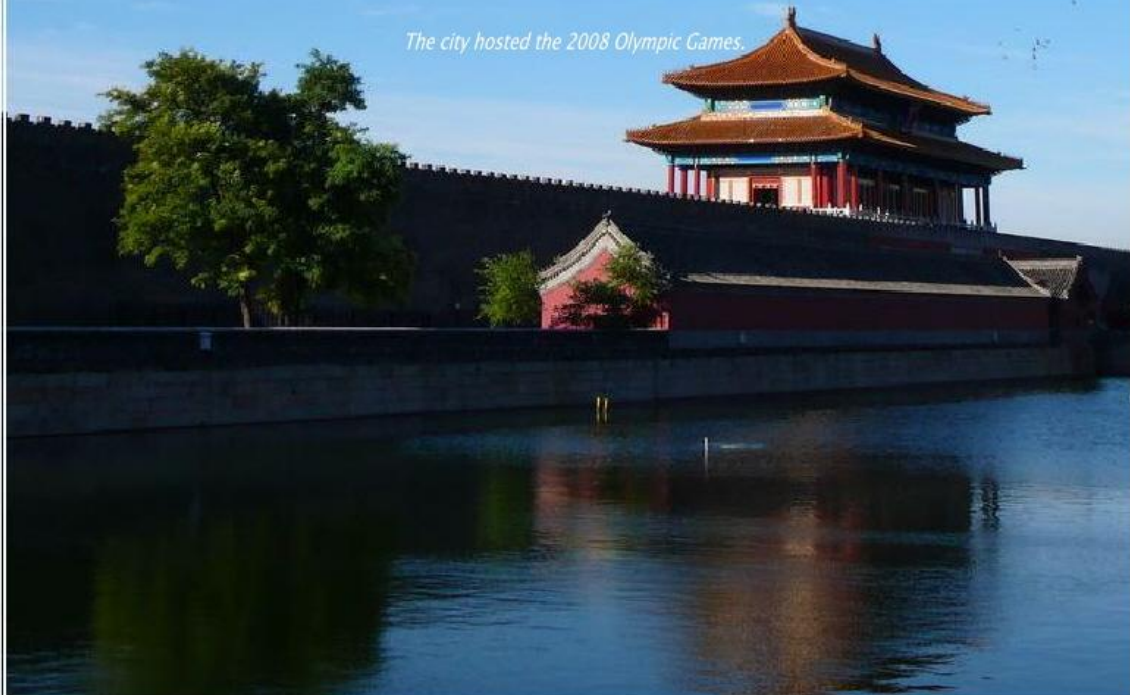
*Beijing is one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China.*

*Beijing is China's second largest city, after Shanghai.*

*Beijing is a major transportation hub, with dozens of railways, roads and motorways passing through the city. It is also the focal point of many international flights to China.*

*Beijing is recognised as the political, educational, and cultural center of the People's Republic of China, while Shanghai and Hong Kong predominate in economic fields.*

*The city hosted the 2008 Olympic Games.*



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## Beijing (Peking) *is one of the great cities of the world and famous for its long history and splendid*

*culture. It has been the capital for the last 700 years and is the second largest city in China. Its long history has endowed the city with countless historic and scenic spots. Beijing is filled with great monuments, palaces, temples and reminders of the past glory of imperial China. Situated in the northeast of China, it is the center of national politics and culture and the hub for international communication. It has an overall population of 10,855,000 and covers an area of 16,808 square kilometers at an elevation of 43.5 m above sea level. The climate in Beijing is seasonal with cold, dry winters and hot summers.*



*Beijing is a tourist city famed for its picturesque scenery. Autumn is the peak season, when the weather is dry and cooler. You can visit the largest and best-preserved ancient palace, the Imperial Palace, the most well preserved royal garden, the Summer Palace, and the world-famous Great Wall. The Imperial Palace represents the crystallization of ancient Chinese architecture. The Summer Palace has a concentration of the best of ancient buildings, as well as styles of gardening, and is a virtual museum of traditional Chinese gardening. The Great Wall, a huge project that began more than 2,000 years ago, winds its way along the mountains and valleys bordering northern China and approaches quite close to Beijing. Today, with its magnificent Tiananmen Square, its network of cloverleaf road junctions and its skyline of high-rises, Beijing has taken on a new look, blending classical grace with hi-tech modernity. The grand, magnificent Tiananmen Square stands harmoniously in the vicinity of crisscrossing cloverleaf junctions and serried skyscrapers. Simple, classical tradition synchronizes perfectly with contemporary civilization: Beijing, this ancient city, has taken on a brand-new look.*

*Beijing's climate is defined as "continental monsoon." The four seasons are distinctly recognizable. Spring and autumn is the best time to be in Beijing, particularly in the months of April, May, September and October. Autumn is considered to be the best time to visit Beijing as the skies are clear and the weather is very comfortable. Although winter is technically longer, that should not keep you from traveling to Beijing as indoor heating is widely available. Nevertheless, as the indoor/outdoor temperature difference is rather large, travelers should be prepared with warm clothing and a thick coat is recommended for the colder months of the year. In winter, off-season discounts are to be had as well. Bilingual weather information can be obtained by dialing 12121 when in Beijing. The average precipitation in a year is 644 mm. The frost-free period is 180-days.*

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature (Celsius)	-4.6	-2.2	4.5	13.1	19.8	24.0	25.8	24.4	19.4	12.4	4.1	-2.7
Rainfall (cm)	3.0	7.4	8.6	19.4	33.1	77.8	192.5	212.3	57.0	24.0	6.6	2.6
Days of rainfall	2.0	3.1	4.1	4.6	5.9	9.7	14.1	13.2	6.8	5.0	3.7	1.6

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# Guiyang

*Guiyang is the capital city of Guizhou Province in south west China. Situated on the east of the Yungui Plateau, Guiyang is located in the central of Guizhou Province. Guiyang has 8,034 square kilometers of area. Because situated in the south center of China, Guiyang has a mild and moist climate and weather.*



*The weather of the year changes not too much. Guiyang is also considered as one of the spring city like Kunming and Chengdu. Like many cities in China, you can see both historical sites and natural scenic spots in and around Guiyang city. Famous historical and cultural sites are including Jiaxiu Tower, Wenchang Pavilion.*

*Guiyang is temperate and humid, and has a subtropical monsoon climate, with fairly mild winters and warm summers. The seasons are not particularly distinct. Unseasonably warm or*

*cold spells are common although temperatures rarely reach extremes. Average highs are 10c in January and 28c in July. Rain falls throughout the year, with occasional flurries in winter. It is also one of China's least sunny cities. In the year of 2000, Guiyang had an average temperature of 13.9°C, lower than normal; the rainfall of 1424.5 mm, higher than normal; the sunshine time of 1124.5 hours, less 161 hours than usual years. The climates in all seasons are as follows: in the winter, dry and warm in early days, as well as cold, excessive rain and freezing snow in middle and later days; in the spring, lower average temperature, normal rainfall, excessive rain; in the summer, lower average temperature, excessive and well-distributed rainfall, no excessive rainstorm; in the autumn, lower average temperature, lower rainfall, usual sunshine time equally with the average value*



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# Kaili

*Kaili, a city with beautiful scenes and rich ethnic customs in Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, is 197 kilometers away from Guiyang City, the capital of Guizhou Province. Kaili is a cultural hub of Miao and Dong ethnic minorities especially the center of Miao culture with 28,000 Miao people (accounts for 63% of the total population of*



*Kaili). In Miao language, Kaili means a city formed from cultivation, it is a region inhabited by more than 20 ethnic minorities which live on the traditional agriculture including Miao, Dong, Yao, Dai, Man, Hui, Molao, etc. Hailed as the Hometown of Festivals, more than 130 festivals are held in Kaili every year. With titles of a Provincial Civilized City, one of the 20 Harmonies City of China elected by the public, Kaili is also a Chinese Excellent Tourism City with many traditional ethnic villages scattered in the nearby mountains, which make it a popular destination for people who want to explore the Chinese ancient ethnic culture.*

*Kaili city's history can be traced back to the Spring and Autumn Period (722 BC – 482 BC), and it has a governed history of more than 500 years that once hailed as a Little Capital of the State in Ming and Qing dynasties. With the beautiful landscapes and rich natural resources, generations of more than 20 nationalities lived here have created a splendid and glorious culture, including the traditional ethnic crafts of cross-stitch work, embroidery and batik, colorful ethnic songs and dances accompanied by the Lushengs (reed-pipe wind instruments) and drums, as well as numerous traditional festivals such as the most celebrated Miao New Year Festival, Lusheng Festival and Dong Ethnic People Bull Fighting Festival. The characteristic traditional architecture of Miao and Dong is the wood-structured ones created by their intelligent ancestors. The featured Diaojialou (houses built on pillars) of Miao people is renowned for its*



*unique style and great practicability while the special shaped drum tower of Dong people is totally different from the common practice of towers which is highly praised by architects. Ethnic musical instruments are also impressive that brings to people the fresh music experience; among them, Lusheng is the most famous one which is an ancient instrument of Miao with a recorded history of more than 3000 years. Kaili is a more and more famous tourism city today with rich ethnic cultures and natural sceneries, which is in the middle of the popular ethnic tour route extending from Sanjiang of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region to Dali and Lijiang of Yunnan Province. The visit to the picturesque Kaili can be a unique experience to explore the ancient ethnic minorities of China.*

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# Zhaoxing

*Zhaoxing, in east Guizhou province is one of those little towns you should visit. The reason is that the town is the largest traditional Dong minority town in Guizhou with 3 Wind and Rain bridges and 5 Drum Towers. Most of the village is still build in traditional style. This is a must visit. Although Zhaoxing is a small town, it is the largest Dong village in the region, if not in the whole of China. Even though slowly tourism starts to find Zhaoxing, traditions have not been lost (or sold out to tourism). The few more modern buildings seem to be a bit out of place here. The reason to visit Zhaoxing is not only to see the village with its 3 Wind and Rain Bridges and 5 Drum Towers but also visit the local market and observe daily life of the Dong people. The heart of the town is, as usual, the market area. Markets are usually held in the mornings. But it is not the market you would want to see although it is a great place to watch people. The Dong Towers are traditionally used for performances and announcements, even today they are in use. Often you will find people using the Drum Towers for relaxing or watching performances.*



*Zhaoxing Dong Village is one of the largest Dong villages in Guizhou. Known as No.1 Dong Village, Zhaoxing has over 800 households and more than 4,000 inhabitants. It lies in a basin surrounded by mountains and has one small river*



*passing through. The serried stilted houses built on the hillside. They are all built of Chinese fir with blue tile roofs. The village has a theater stage, singing platforms and grain barns. Drum towers are the village 's special feature. There are five of them here, looking like five lotus flowers scattered in five naturally formed villages. Zhaoxing village is also a cradle of Dong festivals and dances. The important Dong festivals include Dong New Year, the New Harvest Festival, Sama Festival and so on. There are many kinds of Dong song and dance, among which the Grand Song (Dage in Chinese) is the best known. Zhaoxing is also the place where Dong people gather to perform the Dong drama every year.*

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## Sanjiang



*Sanjiang is the most intact hometown of Dong Nationality of Guangxi with complete traditional folk culture and beautiful natural sights. Sanjiang County consists of 15 towns, 166 villages, and 566 village sub-groups. The county is inhabited by members of the Dong, Miao, Yao, and Zhuang ethnic minorities. Tourists come to Sanjiang County to see the various nationalities' ethnic styles, culture, handicrafts, architecture and to enjoy the beautiful scenery and the fresh and comfortable mountain climate.*

*Situated in the north of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Sanjiang County has a total area of 2,454 sq. km. It borders Guizhou Province on the Northwest in Cong Jiang County and on Tongdao Dong Ethnic Minority Autonomous County in Hunan Province. The whole county consists of 15 towns, 166 villages, and 566 village sub-groups. The total population is 357,300. The county is inhabited by members of the Dong, Miao, Yao, and Zhuang ethnic minorities. Of that number 202,800 of them are Dong ethnic minority. Tourists come to Sanjiang County to see the various nationalities' ethnic styles, culture, handicrafts, architecture and to enjoy the beautiful scenery and the fresh and comfortable mountain climate. Here one can see the distinctive attractions of the Dong people, village gates, drum-towers, alcoves and roofed bridges.*



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# Guilin

*Guilín* (Chinese: 桂林; Zhuang: Gveilinz) is a prefecture-level city in the northeast of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China, sitting on the west bank of the Li River. Its name means "forest of Sweet Osmanthus", owing to the large number of fragrant Sweet Osmanthus trees located in the city. The city has long been renowned for its unique scenery of Karst topography and is one of China's most popular tourist destinations.



*Guilin* lies in the northern portion of Guangxi, and has a total area of 27,809 square kilometres. The topography of the area is marked by karst formations. The Li River flows through the city.

*Hills and Mountains:* Diecai Hill (zh: 叠彩山), Elephant Trunk Hill, Wave-Subduing Hill (zh: 伏波山), Lipu Mountains, The Cat Mountains (zh: 猫儿山) and Yao Hill (zh: 尧山) *Cave:* Reed Flute Cave, Seven-Star Cave

*Guilin* has a monsoon-influenced humid subtropical climate (Köppen Cfa), with mild winters and long, hot, and humid summers. The monsoon is long, lasting from March to August, and a pronounced dry season occurs in fall and winter; the total annual rainfall is 1,920 millimetres. The monthly 24-hour average temperature ranges from 7.9 °C (46.2 °F) in January to 28.0 °C (82.4 °F) in July, and the annual mean is 18.8 °C (65.8 °F). Snowfall is rare but possible in winter.

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# Long Ji

**Dragon Backbone's Rice Terraces** *is the most amazing terrace in China!*



Located approximately 27 kilometers (about 16 miles) southeast of Longsheng County, a vast region of rice terraces stretches layer upon layer, coiling around from the base of Longji (the dragon's backbone) Mountain to its summit. This is the most amazing terrace in China, the Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces. Construction of the terraces began in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), and continued until the early Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) when construction was completed. The Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces are the culmination of both the profound wisdom and strenuous labor of the Zhuang people.

Now, the Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces covers an area of 66 square kilometers (about 16308 acres) and spans an altitude between 300 meters (about 984 feet) and 1100 meters (about 3608 feet). It is said, 'Where there is soil, there is

a terrace', be it in the valley, with swift flowing river to the mountains summit with its swirling cloud cover, or from bordering verdant forest to the cliff walls. Even though the Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces is large, it is made up of numerous patches no more than 1 mu (it is a traditional unit of area in China, currently call shimu) (about 0.16 acres). The smaller ones like snails while the bigger one like towers. The outline is very smooth with gradients between 26 degrees and 35 degrees. The Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces is a beautiful natural picture. The linked together rice terraces vary from season to season. In spring, the water is irrigated into the fields and the terraces look like great chains or ribbons hung on the hillsides. When the onset of summer, green waves rush continuously down the mountainside from the heaven. The theme of autumn is the harvest, with the mountainside decorated with the gold of ripened millet. Coming into winter, the whole mountain will be covered with white snow, just like dragons playing with water.

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# Yangshuo County

*Yangshuo County is a county in Guilin, Guangxi Province, China. Its seat is located in Yangshuo Town. Surrounded by karst peaks and bordered on one side by the Li River (漓江) it is easily accessible by bus or by boat from nearby Guilin.*



*In the 1980s, the town became popular with foreign backpackers, and by the late 1990s packaged tourists began arriving in greater numbers. At that time, domestic tourism represented only a small fraction of the tourists but by 2005 domestic tourists outnumbered foreign tourists by a great margin. Today, the town has become a resort destination for both domestic and foreign travelers.*



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**Shanghai** (Chinese: 上海; Mandarin pinyin: Shànghǎi) is the most populous city in China. The city is located in eastern China, at the middle portion of the Chinese coast, and sits at the mouth of the Yangtze River. Due to its rapid growth over the last two decades it has again become a global city, exerting influence over finance, commerce, fashion, technology and culture.

Once a fishing and textiles town, Shanghai grew in importance in the 19th century due to its favorable port location and was one of the cities opened to foreign trade by the 1842 Treaty of Nanking. The city then flourished as a centre of commerce between east and west, and became a multinational hub of finance and business in the 1930s. However, with the Communist Party takeover of the mainland in 1949, the city's international influence declined. In 1990, the economic reforms introduced by Deng Xiaoping resulted in an intense re-development of the city, aiding the return of finance and foreign investment to the city. Shanghai is now aiming to be a global finance hub and international shipping centre in the future, and is one of the world's major financial centres.



Shanghai is also a popular tourist destination renowned for its historical landmarks such as The Bund, City God Temple and Yuyuan Garden, as well as the extensive and growing Pudong skyline. It is described as the "showpiece" of the booming economy of mainland China.