

## Adventure Program

### CN5 - Exploring Ethnic Groups in Guizhou and Guilin – 11 Days



#### Detailed Day – by-day Itinerary

##### Day1 Shanghai

After being met by our staff at the airport, we will transfer to the hotel. In the evening we will have a welcome dinner to get acquainted with one another. Depending on arrival time, we may be able to fit in some Shanghai sightseeing.

Regal International East Asia Hotel (5 star)

Meals Provided: D

##### Day 2 Shanghai to Guiyang

After breakfast, we will spend the morning strolling along **the Bund**, originally the city's financial center a busy and bustling harbor. Over a century later, the Bund continues to charm guests with its diverse collection of old buildings. The various styles that one sees at the Bund, including French, German and British-influenced architecture - has helped win its reputation as 'a Museum of Architecture'. Afterwards, we will have a lunch of delicious local food before transferring to the airport to catch a flight from Shanghai to Guiyang.

Guizhou has long been a remote backwater of China's Southwest, largely untouched by tourism development seen in surrounding provinces such as Guangxi, Sichuan and Yunnan. Its relative isolation has made the region one of the best-kept secrets in China; Its stunning landscape is characterized by limestone karst hills, jagged peaks and terraced rice fields. Its colorful ethnic minority cultures have made Guizhou a paradise for anthropologists, photographers and adventurous travelers. Upon arrival in Guiyang, we will meet our local guide at the airport. Before having dinner at a local restaurant, we will spend some time at Jia Xiu Lou Pavillon for local tea tasting.

Regal Hotel (4 star)

Meals Provided: B, L, D(Optional Dinner)

### Day 3 Old Han Village of Guizhou

Today's program highlights the remaining culture of the **old Han** (Chinese) ethnic group. The ancestors of these villagers migrated from Jiangxi Province to Guizhou Province in the Ming Dynasty. We will drive for 2 hours to reach **Jichang village**. Women here are still dressed in traditional Ming dynasty costumes, and houses remain faithful to the Ming architectural styles. After lunch at the village, we will watch a local opera performance, famed for the performers' symbolic masks. Later we will take the afternoon to walk around and explore a nearby old Han village. We will drive back to Guiyang in the afternoon.

Regal Hotel (4 star)

Meals Provided: B, L, D (Optional Dinner)

### Day 4 Guiyang – Xiaba - Dazhai



We will leave Guiyang to explore villages around Xiaba and visit a local Buddhist temple. After lunch, we'll spend the afternoon **hiking** (approximately 2 hour) through the **Damochong Valley**, an area of quaint villages, dense bamboo groves, and clear streams. We'll stop along the way and learn about this area's centuries-old art of papermaking. The small mills are beautiful - a large rock wheel controlled by a wooden waterwheel drives over the bamboo, mashing it

slowly into a paste. The mills are built and owned by individual families that live nearby.

We spend the night with a papermaking family in Dazhai village.

Village Stay

Meals Provided: B, L, D

### Day 5 Dazhai to Guiyang

We spend the morning exploring **Dazhai village**, an enchanting maze of old wooden houses among green paddy fields.

Afterwards we'll take a three hour hike through this quaint area of mountain villages. We'll stop for a hearty lunch in **Yandi Miao village** where we'll have a chance to chat with local families and gain a better understanding of life and customs in the area. The Miao are animist and shamanist, believing the world to be inhabited by good and evil



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spirits. In each village there are possibly two shamans with esoteric knowledge to control and communicate with supernatural spirits. We may see a protective shrine of phallic stones set up near the entrance of a village, or streamers of white paper will be bundled together and placed over the doors or on field boundaries. Herbs and mirrors hang from doorways and women often keep parcels of herbs close-by. Springs are decorated with cutout paper flowers to pay homage to the water spirits. After lunch, we'll take a walk in the hills around the village and return to Guiyang late in the afternoon.

Regal Hotel (4 star)

Meals Provided: B, L, D (Optional Dinner)

### **Day 6 Guiyang to Maomahe village**

Today, we will drive 3.5 hours (2.5 hours on the highway, 1-hour on county roads) to Leishan county, center of the Miao culture in southeast Guizhou. From Leishan, we will hike for half an hour before we reach **Maomahe village**, which is known for its Long-Skirt Miao, a subgroup of the Miao ethnic minority group. Local people will hold a warm welcome ceremony for us. We will have dinner with the local villagers and gain a better understanding of life and customs in their area. If weather is good, we will have a bonfire party with local villagers in the evening.

Overnight in Maomahe village. Village Stay

Meals Provided: B, L, D

### **Day 7 Maomahe to Kaili**

After breakfast in Maomahe village, we will drive to **Shuidian village** via Leishan. **Hiking** in Shuidian village for 2 hours, you may feel as though you are idling along a corridor of landscape paintings of limestone pinnacles set against terraced rice fields and picturesque villages. In the afternoon, we will visit **Datang village**, inhabited by **Short-Skirt Miao**, a subgroup of the Miao ethnic minority group. Datang is well known for its beautiful dancing and singing performances. Local villagers will welcome our group with the warm hospitality of the region. Drive to Kaili late afternoon.

Grand Dragon Hotel (4 star)

Meals Provided: B, L, D (Optional Dinner)

### **Day 8 Kaili – Guiyang fly Guilin**

We will drive back to Guiyang in the afternoon. Before leaving Kaili, we will visit a family which has lots of ethnic groups' costume collection. After dinner we fly from Guiyang to Guilin on MF8408 (1950/2035). Upon arrival in Guilin, we transfer to our hotel and rest.

Park Hotel (4 star)

Meals Provided: B, L, D (Optional Dinner)

### Day 9 Guilin to Yangshuo



Its amazing mountains - elongated domes and soft spires - are the embodiment of a Chinese scroll painting, and like the Taj Mahal or the Grand Canyon, pictures don't prepare one for Guilin's beauty and strangeness. You will enjoy a **cruise on the Li River**, a lovely meander through and around natural masterpieces like Elephant Trunk Hill, Old Man Mountain, and Folded Brocade Hill. As the Tang Dynasty poet Han Yu wrote, "The river like a blue silk belt, the hills like hairpins of jade." Cruising along the river, you may feel as though you are idling along a corridor of landscape paintings of limestone pinnacles set against terraced rice fields and picturesque villages. You'll disembark the cruise boat in **Xingping**, which is an ancient town where locals have been living along the ancient street for many generations. You'll visit the old houses and a rice noodle factory in Xingping. After lunch, we drive along the old Chinese "Pony Express Road" to another town of **Fuli** with a history of 1000 years. Fuli is a small town of 4,000 people. One out of every four residents in Fuli lives on making painted fans and umbrellas. We walk along the ancient narrow stone streets and visit the local market. We drive to Yangshuo late in the afternoon.

Paradise Hotel (4 star)

Meals Provided: B, L, D(Optional Dinner)

### Day 10 Yangshuo

Yangshuo is a charming town and a gateway to explore the countryside and nearby villages. You'll have two days to explore this beautiful, relaxing area. **Bike** through the old road via Aishan, passing by picturesque villages, tucked among subtropical plants and stretched in between rice paddies. The ride one-way covers 13 kilometers on well-paved roads, and should take up to one hour. If you have more energy, climb 819 steps to get to the top of **Moon Hill** for a bird's-eye-view of the surrounding hills and have a close look of the "Moon" which used to be an underground river canal. Have lunch at a local farmer's house in Moon Village. The afternoon is left free for you to explore and take a hike in the countryside. If you prefer to take it easy, you can take the bus, or cycle back to Yangshuo and sit around drinking tea in the market. There are also numerous water caves around Yangshuo, and you can take an optional side tour to see the stalactites and stalagmites.

Paradise Hotel (4 star)



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Meals Provided: B, L, D(Optional Dinner)

**Day 11 Yangshuo to Guilin**

We drive back to Guilin in the morning and connect with your flight either back home or join pre or extension programs.

Meals Provided: B



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## Quotation for Group (more than 4pax, guaranteed group departure)

2008

Land Prices (CAD)

Dates	11-21May, 15-25Jun	13-23Jul 14-24Sep	12-22Oct	02-12Nov
Land cost: 4-22pax	2,640	2,640	2,640	2,540
Single supplement	420	420	420	420

### Flights

Call for international air.

Call our tour expert for tailor-made your private journey.

### Triple Discount

Additional discount of \$200 applies for traveler who will choose the half-board service

Half-board service is excluding 7 dinner enroute, see program in details.

### Price includes:

- Domestic economy flights and airport taxes.
- Land transfers for whole trip
- All accommodations on a twin-sharing basis, at the hotels specified in the itinerary where available
- All admissions and activity expenses as noted on itinerary
- Meals, drinking water, and soft drinks during meals as program indicates
- All programs as per itinerary
- Private tour guide and driver
- Tour leader service along the whole trip when group size is bigger than 10pax.

### Price excludes:

- Discretionary gratuities for drivers, local guides, and staff
- Expenses of personal nature, e.g. mini-bar, laundry, telecommunications, alcoholic beverages etc.
- Travel insurance
- Excursions not included in the itinerary
- International flights and airport taxes
- GST