



TanSuo Cultural Travel

Explore Ethnic Minority Culture in the Hidden Villages of Guizhou Province



Our epic adventure tour places you right at a region in China so remote that its natural beauty has remained virtually untouched

We'll venture deep into the countryside and encounter people whose ancient folk customs date back over hundreds of years.

Unlike other ethnic minority tours in China, **we'll be avoiding the villages or towns that have been developed for tourism.** Instead, with the help of our expert guide, **we'll go into remote rural areas in order to engage with authentic ethnic minority villages and hear about daily life first-hand from the village elders.**

During this tour, we will have the chance to engage with communities from the Dong, Miao, Sui, Gejia, and Yao people. We'll also have the unique opportunity to visit an ancient village where people from the Han ethnic majority continue to practice customs and wear traditional dress that dates back to the Ming Dynasty!

On this unforgettable tour, you'll get to witness folk performances, marvel at ancient styles of opera, relax at one of the Yao peoples' medicinal spas, learn how rice wine is traditionally made, craft paper from mulberry tree bark, and make tea the old-fashioned way at a green tea plantation.

You will have the opportunity to try on traditional outfits, learn folk dances, and even receive a singing lesson from one of the Dong peoples' prestigious Kam Grand Choirs.

During the tour we will:

1. Immerse ourselves in the **culture** and **lifestyle** of the Dong and Miao ethnic minorities;
2. Study traditional **architecture** in a plethora of Dong and Miao villages;
3. Witness first-hand the delicate **traditional dress** and **adornments** of the Dong and Miao people;
4. Listen to the beautiful songs and watch the graceful **performances** that are associated with the traditional culture and customs of the Dong and Miao minorities;
5. Enjoy the stunning **mountainous landscape** of Guizhou province;
6. Sample the signature dishes of the delicious **local cuisine**.

Participants Max: 8

Duration: 14 days and 13 nights



Dong Village

Tour in 2021:
20th of Aug - 2nd of Sep
5th of Nov - 18th of Nov

Tour in 2022:
15th of Apr - 28th of Apr
4th of Nov - 17th of Nov

The Miao ethnic group

The history of the Miao people is shrouded in mystery, but modern research suggests that they may have been among the earliest settlers in China. Researchers have found that many Chinese words related to rice farming were borrowed from the Miao language, which indicates that the Miao were some of the first rice cultivators in the country and may have done so over 5,000 years ago! This, along with DNA evidence, connects the Miao to the ancient Daxi people, whose history dates back approximately 5,300 to 6,000 years. The Daxi have long been credited as the first cultivators of rice in the Far East, and it appears that the Miao may have been among them.

The Miao prefer to live in mountainous areas and have developed a special type of dwelling to this end, known as a diaojiaolou. The front of the house is supported by pillars, whilst the rear is suspended on wooden stilts to keep it level with the mountainside. This makes it look as though the building is hanging off of the mountain!

The Miao are adept at carpentry and wickerwork, but are best known for



Miao girls are dancing

their mastery of **silversmithing**, **embroidery**, and **batik**. The Miao women hand weave and dye cloth, then sew and embroider it by hand to make all of their clothes. The patterns incorporate themes based partly on the natural world and partly on the artists' imagination, which is why dragons and phoenixes often feature in Miao craftwork and why certain animals and

plants look different to how they appear in real life. Their creativity is legendary and their traditional dress, resplendent with colour, is the highlight of any traditional Miao festival. Discover more about [*the Miao Ethnic Group*](#).

Miao Ethnic Performance

Performances in Miao villages will always be set to music and, when it comes to the Miao people, the *lusheng*[1] is the instrument of choice, although other instruments like the *suona*[2] and the copper drum are also popular. During many festivals, the *lusheng* dance will be the focal attraction. It is a traditional dance performed by the Miao people in southeast Guizhou.

This style of dance can be divided into two types: lined dance and stepping dance. In the lined dance, the performers will hold their *lusheng*, stand in a line and dance while turning around, with the performer playing the largest *lusheng* as their axis. In the stepping dance, two performers will play *lusheng* of the same size and act as the leaders of the dance. The other performers will circle around them and follow their movements. Read more about [Miao Performance](#).

[1] *Lusheng*: A wind instrument made of multiple bamboo pipes, each fitted with a free reed, that are all in turn fitted into a large, hardwood pipe.

Normally there are five or six bamboo pipes that are each of a different pitch. Air is blown into the hardwood pipe to create sound. They vary in size from small, handheld ones to ones that are several metres in length.

[2] *Suona*: A Chinese wind instrument. It is made up of a horn with a double reed that makes a distinctively loud and high-pitched sound. It comes in several sizes and the size of the horn affects the sound it makes. It is used throughout China in ritual music and folk music.



A Miao man is playing lusheng

The Dong ethnic group

The Dong ethnic group are renowned for their musical ability and their skill as carpenters. From the **Kam Grand Choirs** to the looming **Drum Towers**, Dong villages are a place of harmony and wonder.

The Dong people boast a population of nearly 3 million in China and the vast majority of them are concentrated in eastern Guizhou province, western Hunan province, and northern Guangxi.

The Dong people's talent and penchant for music evolved from their habit of singing folk songs while they were working or farming. Many of these songs are centred on enchanting folk tales that were based around topics related to daily life, mainly about the pursuit of true love. The beauty of their music is matched only by the intricacy of their architecture, manifested in their characteristic Drum Towers and Wind-Rain Bridges.

Nowadays most Dong people still follow a traditional way of life in their hometowns. To this day you can still see their magnificent architecture, their traditional style of dress, and their vibrant local festivals.



Dong girls

Unfortunately this idyllic situation appears to be waning. More and more young people from the Dong community are being drawn to cities in the hopes of embracing modernity and achieving a better quality of life. The arts of batik, embroidery, silverwork, and even singing are gradually being lost. Nowadays, in some Dong villages, you can still enjoy some authentic

“performances” that are not staged for tourists. But who knows how long this opportunity will last? Discover more about [*the Dong Ethnic Group*](#).

Dong Ethnic Performance

From dusk till dawn, the villages of the Dong people are saturated with the harmonious sound of singing. This ethnic group has become famous throughout China for polyphonic folk songs known as “Dage” or Grand Songs. While some of these folk songs are accompanied by the *pipa*[1], most are sung without any musical accompaniment. The Dong ethnic minority have no written language, so they use folk songs to narrate their daily life, express their feelings, and keep a record of their history. All of Dong culture is preserved in these magnificent folk songs. The more songs a Dong person knows, the better educated they are considered to be. Singing is so important to the Dong people that supposedly, in the past, if a man couldn’t sing then he would struggle to find a wife! The most talented singers in any Dong village make up what are called Kam Grand Choirs. The Kam Grand Choir tradition is thought to date back all the way to the Warring States Period (475BC-221 B.C.), with a history of over 2,500 years behind it. In 2009, it



Dong girls are singing folk songs

was made a World Class Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. A Kam Grand Choir is a polyphonic choir that sings without the help of a conductor or any accompanying orchestra. Their songs are designed to imitate the natural world, such as the chirping of insects, the gurgling of streams, the whistling of the wind and

other soothing natural sounds. Read more about [Dong Performance](#).

[1] *Pipa*: A four-stringed plucking instrument that has a pear-shaped wooden body and anywhere from 12 to 26 frets. It is sometimes referred to as the Chinese lute.



Diaojiaolou

Diaojiaolou is a kind of dwelling popular among several of the ethnic minority communities throughout southern China. The word “diaojiao” (吊脚) in Chinese means “hanging feet” and “lou” (楼) means “building”, so diaojiaolou literally means “hanging feet building”. They are so named because of their unusual appearance. The history of the diaojiaolou stretches back over 500 years and they are widespread throughout Yunnan, Guangxi, Hunan, Guizhou, Hubei, and Sichuan province, but differ in appearance depending on the ethnic group who built them. During our tour, we will have the opportunity to compare the Dong-style diaojiaolou with the Miao-style diaojiaolou. Read more about [Diaojiaolou](#).



Wind-Rain Bridges

Wind-Rain bridges are so intricately carved and stunningly decorated that they look like small palaces that have been built atop a bridge. Along with the traditional Drum Towers, Wind-Rain bridges were developed by the Dong ethnic minority. They are a staple feature of any Dong village and provide the dual function of allowing members of the village to cross rivers and giving them a place to socialise. Not only are they striking to look at, Wind-Rain bridges are an architectural phenomenon in that no nails have been used to build them. They are a product of precise carpentry and local ingenuity. Read more about [Wind-Rain Bridges](#).



Drum Towers

The Drum Towers that loom over every Dong village look like giant cedar trees winding their way to the sky. Drum Towers are a triumph of Dong architecture and are deeply culturally significant to the Dong ethnic minority. They are the place where the elders meet, socialise and, at one point in history, even passed judgement. They are an important social hub in any Dong community and are thus the perfect place to experience authentic Dong culture. There is a Drum Tower in every Dong village and, though they all bear basic similarities, no two towers are ever exactly the same. Read more about [*Drum Towers*](#).



Jiaxiu Tower

Jiaxiu Tower has long been the symbol of Guiyang, the provincial capital of Guizhou, and yet it appears to suffer from rather mixed luck. On the one hand, the tower was supposedly responsible for the success of three Guizhou scholars in the imperial examination. On the other hand, it's been destroyed and rebuilt six times. It is sometimes referred to as First Scholar's Tower because the term "jiaxiu" can be interpreted to mean "first scholar" or "to come first in the imperial examinations" and the tower was initially built to encourage local scholars to study hard and perform well. While it seems it managed to achieve its aim, evidently whatever good luck the building had went to the scholars and left it with none for itself! Read more about [*Jiaxiu Tower*](#).

Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive in Guangzhou

We recommend flying directly into Guangzhou if possible, as it is the largest city in southern China and thus benefits from several direct flights from Europe. You can, however, choose to fly into Beijing or Shanghai instead, and take a connecting flight to Guangzhou. We can advise you on flight times.

We will pick you up at Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport.

Before we head off for our amazing cultural adventure in the mountains of Guizhou province, let's enjoy a welcome dinner together made up of signature dishes from traditional Cantonese cuisine.

Accommodation: 3-star hotel in Guangzhou

Please Note: We will arrange two airport pick-ups during the day for tour participants: one at midday and one in the evening. If your flight arrives very early or very late, please let us know in advance and we will make arrangements accordingly. In this instance, you may be expected to pay extra for a personal pick-up service or for a taxi to our hotel.



Guizhou



Cantonese cuisine

Itinerary

Day 2 Journeying to the First Dong Village on Our Trip

In the morning, we will take the high speed train from Guangzhou to Congjiang , which will take about 2 and a half hours. Then we will drive to the village of **Zhaoxing**, to drop off our luggage at the hotel, and have lunch.

Zhaoxing is one of the most famous Dong villages in China, in part due to its size but predominantly due to the fact that it has five Drum Towers. Each tower is specially named in order to promote a certain virtue, and is different in terms of its method of construction, size, height, and external appearance. According to local legend, this village was supposedly founded during the Song Dynasty (960-1279), meaning the village ancestors settled there over 840 years ago! Read more about [Zhaoxing](#).

After lunch, we will drive for around 30 minutes to the village of **Tang An** so that we can visit the beautiful **rice terraces**. We will spend approximately 2 and a half hours hiking via the path through the terraced fields before returning to Zhaoxing.

Once the hike is finished, we'll take some time to explore this beautiful Dong village.

After dinner, everyone is free to explore the village at their leisure and enjoy the nightlife. Zhaoxing is renowned for its beautiful lighting at night.

All three meals included: We'll enjoy food together made up of dishes from traditional Dong cuisine.

Accommodation: Traditional guest house in Zhaoxing



Itinerary

Day 3 Discover the Ancient Spas of the Yao People

In the morning, we will spend an hour doing some last-minute exploration in Zhaoxing. After that, we will head to a Yao ethnic minority village named **Gaohua**.

The Yao people in this village are famous for a type of medical treatment known as a “**Herbal Bath**,” which has been used for over 900 years to cure all kinds of diseases.

You will have the option to either try the Herbal Bath for yourself or take a walk through the village and experience the daily lifestyle of the Yao people. In the late afternoon, we will drive back to Congjiang.

All three meals included: We'll enjoy food together made up of dishes from traditional Dong and Yao cuisine.

Accommodation: 3-star hotel in Congjiang



Itinerary

Day 4 The Mystery of the Miao People

On this day, we will have a special treat, as we will get to visit the last hunting tribe in China: the Miao people of **Basha**!

Basha is a village unlike any other in China. It is home to members of the Miao ethnic minority but it is unique amongst all other Miao communities. This is because it is the only place in China where residents are still legally allowed to own and carry guns. When the Chinese government tried to confiscate the guns from the members of Basha village, they refused and it was decided that they should be allowed to keep their rifles as part of their rich cultural heritage. To this day, visitors are welcomed with a thrilling display of expert shooting by the local men. Due to their cautious nature, the villagers have virtually isolated themselves from the outside world. They are almost completely self-sufficient and still maintain practices and customs that date back hundreds of years. Discover more about *Basha*.

Alongside exploring the beautiful village, we will also have the opportunity to watch a traditional singing and dancing show performed by the locals. After that, we will pay a visit to a local family in order to hear their stories about their unique culture and daily life.

All three meals included: We'll enjoy food together made up of dishes from traditional Miao cuisine.

Accommodation: Traditional guest house in Basha



Itinerary

Day 5 The Magnificent Kam Grand Choirs of the Dong People, the Fairytale World of Sui People, and the Unique Style of Dress in a Remote Miao Village [Part I]

In the morning, we will drive for around 1 and a half hours to visit a **Dong Village** in the region of Xiaohuang, where is famous for what are known as Kam Grand Choirs. These types of choir are unique to the Dong ethnic minority and the ones found in Xiaohuang are said to be the best! Instead of visiting the village of Xiaohuang, which is nicknamed the “Disneyland” of Dong villages because it is the largest and most heavily developed for tourism, we will visit one of the oldest Dong villages, known as **Huanggang**, where we’ll find 5 drum towers that were built by 5 different clans over 800 years ago.

In the past, it was extremely rare for local villagers to venture out of their village because the surrounding mountains would prevent them from finding a way to connect with the outside world. When you walk through this village, you will find old wooden houses and villagers wearing their traditional clothes, which will make you feel as though you’ve been transported back to ancient times.

After we have arrived in Huanggang, we will enjoy a fantastic singing performance from one of the local **Kam Grand Choirs**.

Once we’ve watched these wonderful performances, you will have the opportunity to try on the traditional dress of the Dong people and learn from the Kam Grand Choirs. Please Note: you do not have to try on their traditional dress if you don’t feel comfortable doing so. There is no additional fee for this activity.



Itinerary

Day 5 The Magnificent Kam Grand Choirs of the Dong People, the Fairytale World of Sui People, and the Unique Style of Dress in a Remote Miao Village [Part II]

In the afternoon, we will head out to visit another sub-group of the Miao people. This sub-group are known as the **Hundred Birds' Miao**. They are well-known for their talent at embroidery and are so-named because their traditional dress can have upwards of 100 birds embroidered on it! You won't find any mention of this small village in any travel books, but it will offer an insight into what real life is like for a small Miao sub-group. You may not find one hundred birds on everyone's dress, but you will be certainly amazed by how unique and elaborate their traditional dress is.

On the way to this remote village, we will make a stop at a **Sui Ethnic Minority** village. The Sui people or Shui people are also one of the 56 ethnic groups in China. They were originally from the Yue Kingdom, which was located along the east coast of China around 2,000 years ago, but they were forced to flee to Guizhou province because of the war with the Kingdom of Qin.

Tucked away behind a lush bamboo forest and resting beside the soothing waters of a river, this Shui village is surrounded by natural splendour. As you step inside, you may feel as though you are entering a fairytale.

All three meals included: We'll enjoy a Miao lunch and a dinner made up of dishes from traditional Guizhou cuisine.

Accommodation: 3-star hotel in Rongjiang



Itinerary

Day 6 Let's Meet Two Vastly Different Groups of Miao People

In the morning, we will drive for around 2 and a half hours to visit a **Miao village** called **Shiqiao (Stone Bridge)**, which is known for its paper making. This special type of paper is made from mulberry tree bark using traditional methods that date back over 2,000 years! We will visit local families to learn the different paper making techniques, so that you can learn how to make your own paper from the local masters and take this special knowledge home with you as a gift.

Then let's go to explore two virtually unknown Miao villages that are hidden deep within the mountains.

First, we will visit the village of **Jidao**, which is home to the **Long Skirt Miao**. With its lush mountains and shimmering rivers, it is nestled in idyllic surroundings. The Miao people of Jidao live in stilted wooden houses that are typically two or three stories high, with domestic animals being kept on the ground level floor and people living in the upper levels.

The Long Skirt Miao are a subgroup of the Miao ethnic minority that are so-named because of their unique costumes, as the women unsurprisingly have a preference for long skirts! They are known as the Hmong in the US, as some of their ancestors immigrated to the US in the late 19th century. We will be welcomed by the locals with a traditional singing and dancing performance. At lunch, we'll be treated to a traditional long table feast!



After lunch, we will drive for another 35 minutes to visit village of **Datang**, which is home to the **Short-skirt Miao**. Ladies in this village wear very short miniskirts, some of which are only 13 inches in length. The locals believe that the shorter the skirt, the more beautiful it is! The men in this village are famous for building the safest barns among the Miao people. They are built over water in order to protect from fire and keep rats out.

All three meals included: We'll enjoy a Miao lunch and a dinner made up of dishes from traditional Guizhou cuisine.

Accommodation: 4-star hotel in Kaili

Itinerary

Day 7 Meet the People Who Don't Want to Be Miao

In the morning, we will drive for around 45 minutes to the **Stone Dragon Village** of the **Xijia People**, where we will start our 1-hour hike to visit the village of **Wangba**, which is home to the Gejia people.

In the 1950s, the Chinese government classified the **Gejia people** as a subgroup of the Miao people. This has never been accepted by the Gejia people themselves and they continue to fight for their right to be acknowledged as an independent ethnic minority group. One of the reasons they use to justify their independence is that they are the descendants of the Manchu people, who once ruled China under the Qing Dynasty, the last imperial dynasty in China.

Ladies in this village are famous for **making batik** with beeswax, but they are also good at archery. We will pay a visit to a local family in order to learn more about this mysterious ethnic group.

In the afternoon, we will have the chance to enjoy picturesque views of the **Wuyang River**. We will take a cruise down the river, so that you can enjoy the cool breeze on deck and witness how the peaks of the mountains change shape as we move through the jade-hued water. In the late afternoon we will arrive in Zhenyuan Ancient Town and, after dinner, everyone will be free to explore the town at their leisure.

All three meals included: We'll enjoy food together made up of dishes from traditional Guizhou cuisine.

Accommodation: 3-star Hotel located in the ancient street of Zhenyuan



Itinerary

Day 8 An Ancient Town Founded by the Miao People

Zhenyuan is an ancient town that was founded by the Miao people on a plateau in the mountains of the eastern part of Guizhou Province. According to historical records, Zhenyuan used to be a military stronghold.

The history of Zhenyuan Ancient Town stretches back over 2,000 years, meaning it is filled with invaluable cultural relics! The town is relatively small and only covers approximately 3 square kilometres, but it boasts more than 160 scenic spots including caves, palaces, pavilions, temples and rivers. The marvelous natural landscape is beautifully complemented by the intricate and unique works of architecture. Discover more about *Zhenyuan*.

In the morning, we will first pay a visit to the **Black Dragon Cave**. Its name can be quite misleading, as it is not actually a cave at all. It is a complex of ancient temples that slowly climb their way up the side of Zhonghe Mountain, just to the east of Zhenyuan Ancient Town. The temples were built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and have managed to outlast two wars without sustaining much damage. The complex is made up of temples dedicated to Confucianism, Buddhism and Daoism and, since all of the buildings adhere to the architectural styles of their respective religions, the complex is a myriad of elaborate styles and designs that make it relatively unique amongst temples in China.

In the afternoon, we will finally get to explore the ancient town itself. In particular, we will have the opportunity to visit one of the oldest houses (**The Residence of the Fu Family**) in the town and meet the owner, who is the 7th generation of his family. From him, we will hear first-hand about his family's rise and fall due to the Opium Wars.



All three meals included: We'll enjoy food together made up of dishes from traditional Guizhou cuisine.

Accommodation: 3-star Hotel located in the ancient part of Zhenyuan

Itinerary

Day 9 The Secret of Making Local Rice Wine

Let's do some exercise in the morning! We'll spend the morning climbing Shiping Mountain, where we'll find an old **City Wall** that was built by the Miao people over 2,000 years ago. From the summit, you'll be treated to a bird's eye view of the whole ancient town. You may be surprised to find that it looks like a Yin-Yang diagram because the Wuyang River winds through the middle part of the town in the shape of an "S."

By this point in the tour, we may have already had our fill of rice wine made by the Miao people. However, aren't you curious about the method in which it is made? On this day, we will have the exclusive opportunity to uncover the secrets behind making rice wine at a local **Ancient Winery**.

In the afternoon, we will head back to Kaili, but we will stop along the way to visit **the Flying Cloud Cliff**. This ancient architectural complex is surrounded by old banyan trees and was built around 600 years ago. Within the complex, there's a temple, caves, a bonsai garden, and a **Minority Festival Culture Museum**.

All three meals included: We'll enjoy food together made up of dishes from traditional Guizhou cuisine.

Accommodation: 4-star hotel in Kaili



Itinerary

Day 10 Discover the Art of Embroidery

You may be surprised to find that we still haven't met all of the subgroups of Miao people yet. In the morning, we will drive for around 15 minutes to visit the **Kaili Sunday Market** (for the tour in Sep). For the local people, this is the largest traditional market and it is made up of 5 main sections, including the food market, the bamboo handicraft area, and the street for textiles and jewelry. There is also the chess playing corner, and the fortune teller corner.

After we've finished exploring the market, we will drive to visit the village of **Qingman**. This village is home to yet another subgroup known as the **Green Miao** people, who are famous for making embroidery using green silk from the silkworms that are raised by the locals. They are also sometimes referred to as the Japanese Miao because the traditional dress of the local women is similar to that of the ancient Japanese. You may be surprised to find that their local dialect has a 30% crossover with Japanese!

Here, we will have the opportunity to learn how to embroider in the traditional way from the local people. Before we enter this village, we will be welcomed with a ceremony known as "Blocking the Way Wine," which we may be familiar with already after having visited so many Miao villages! Hopefully you won't be too tired of rice wine by this point, but if you don't want to drink then you can always politely refuse.

On this day, we will have another chance to try on the traditional dress of the Green Miao, but that's not all. We'll also have the opportunity to learn their traditional dance!

In the afternoon, we will drive for around 2 and a half hours to Guiyang, the provincial capital of Guizhou. Our hotel will be in the heart of old Guiyang, near the Jiaxiu Tower.



All three meals included: We'll enjoy food together made up of dishes from traditional Guizhou cuisine.

Accommodation: 4-star hotel in Guiyang

Itinerary

Day 11 The Ancient Culture of the Han Chinese

In the morning, we will drive for around 2 hours to visit the **Zhijindong Cave National Geopark**, which is the largest underground cave in China. At the cavern's largest point, it is a staggering 173 metres (568 ft.) wide and 150 metres (492 ft.) tall! Zhijin Cave is regarded as an underground natural wonder, boasting numerous karst landforms such as stalagmites, stone pillars, and stone buds. Together, these strange shapes create an otherworldly landscape.

In the afternoon, we'll have the second highlight of the day. Let's discover the last remaining community of the Han (Chinese) ethnic group that are keeping their ancient culture alive. The ancestors of these villagers migrated from Jiangxi Province to Guizhou Province during the Ming Dynasty.

We will drive for around 1 and a half hours to reach the village of **Jichang**, which was once a military garrison that was built over 500 years ago. This special type of village is known as a "**Tunbao**" village. Women here still dress in traditional Ming Dynasty costumes, and the buildings are faithful to Ming Dynasty architectural styles.

We will watch a local **Ground Opera** performance, which is famed for the performers' symbolic masks. The opera in Jichang dates to 1382, during the Ming Dynasty, and is said to be one of the oldest surviving styles of opera in the world.

All three meals included: We'll enjoy food together made up of dishes from traditional Guizhou cuisine.

Accommodation: 3-star hotel in Anshun



Itinerary

Day 12 Witness the Unique Hairstyles of the Miao People

On this day, we will visit the last Miao village on our itinerary.

We will drive for about 1 and a half hours to visit the village of **Balang**, which is home to a subgroup known as the **Antique Miao**. The Miao people living here are quite unique compared to other subgroups. They call themselves the descendants of the King of Bamboo and use bamboo as their symbol. The style in which the ladies wear their hair in this subgroup is particularly distinct and looks very eye-catching! Their special types of houses are known rather morbidly as **Tomb Houses**, because they were designed like a tomb in order to protect the inhabitants during times of warfare. The local people believe that these small houses are the reason why people from this subgroup are generally quite short!

We will pay a visit to the clan leader in Balang in order to learn more about their mysterious history and culture.

After lunch, we will drive back to Guiyang and stop along the way to visit a tea plantation, where you will learn all about the process of making green tea, from picking and frying the tea leaves to packing them.

All three meals included: We'll enjoy food together made up of dishes from traditional Guizhou cuisine.

Accommodation: 4-star hotel in Guiyang



Itinerary

Day 13 From Guiyang to Guangzhou

In the morning, we will take the high speed train from Guiyang to Guangzhou, which will take about 5 hours. When we arrive, we'll check in to our hotel and explore a bit of the city before enjoying dinner together, which will be made up of traditional Cantonese dishes.

Food: Breakfast and dinner are included.

Accommodation: 3-star hotel in Guangzhou

Day 14 Onward journey

In the morning, we will escort you to the train station or airport with plenty of time for you to catch your train or flight.

If your flight isn't until the afternoon, please let us know and we can arrange some extra sightseeing in Guangzhou for you.





Miao girl in Bahsa



The welcome ceremony in Jidao



Tunbao: the traditional Ming Dynasty dress



Dong women in Huanggang



Short-shirt Miao in Datang



The traditional paper making in Shiqiao

Prices and What's Included

Unlike other tours in China, we do not ask you to tip your tour guides and drivers each day. Instead, we pay our tour guides and drivers a fair wage, so they do not need to ask for tips.

Cost pp: £2,500/7-8 people in one group; £2,900/5-6 people in one group; £3,580/3-4 people in one group; £3,980/2 people in one group.

Single supp: £390 (Please be advised that, if you are the last person joining the tour or if there is no one in the group who you can share with, you may need to pay for the single supplement. We will advise you if this is the case when you enquire about the tour.)

What's Included: 13 nights of shared accommodation (based on 2 people per room at hotels); all transportation costs during the designated tour time (high speed trains and private mini coach in Guizhou); meals shown in the itinerary (three meals in Guizhou everyday) ; all entrances fees to the designated attractions within the tour; and services of our tour guides for the entirety of the tour.

What's Not Included: Flights; visa; travel insurance; the Herbal Bath in Yao village.

If you like the look of this tour but would prefer to take it privately, we can tailor it to your specifications and design a bespoke tour for you or your group. Simply contact us on info@asiaculturaltravel.co.uk for a free email consultation with one of our travel experts.



How can I sign up to this tour?

Step 1 ⇒ Contact us directly to talk about the tour in more detail.

Step 2 ⇒ Book online and pay the £100 deposit. If you have an exclusive discount code, please enter it into the Enquiry box.

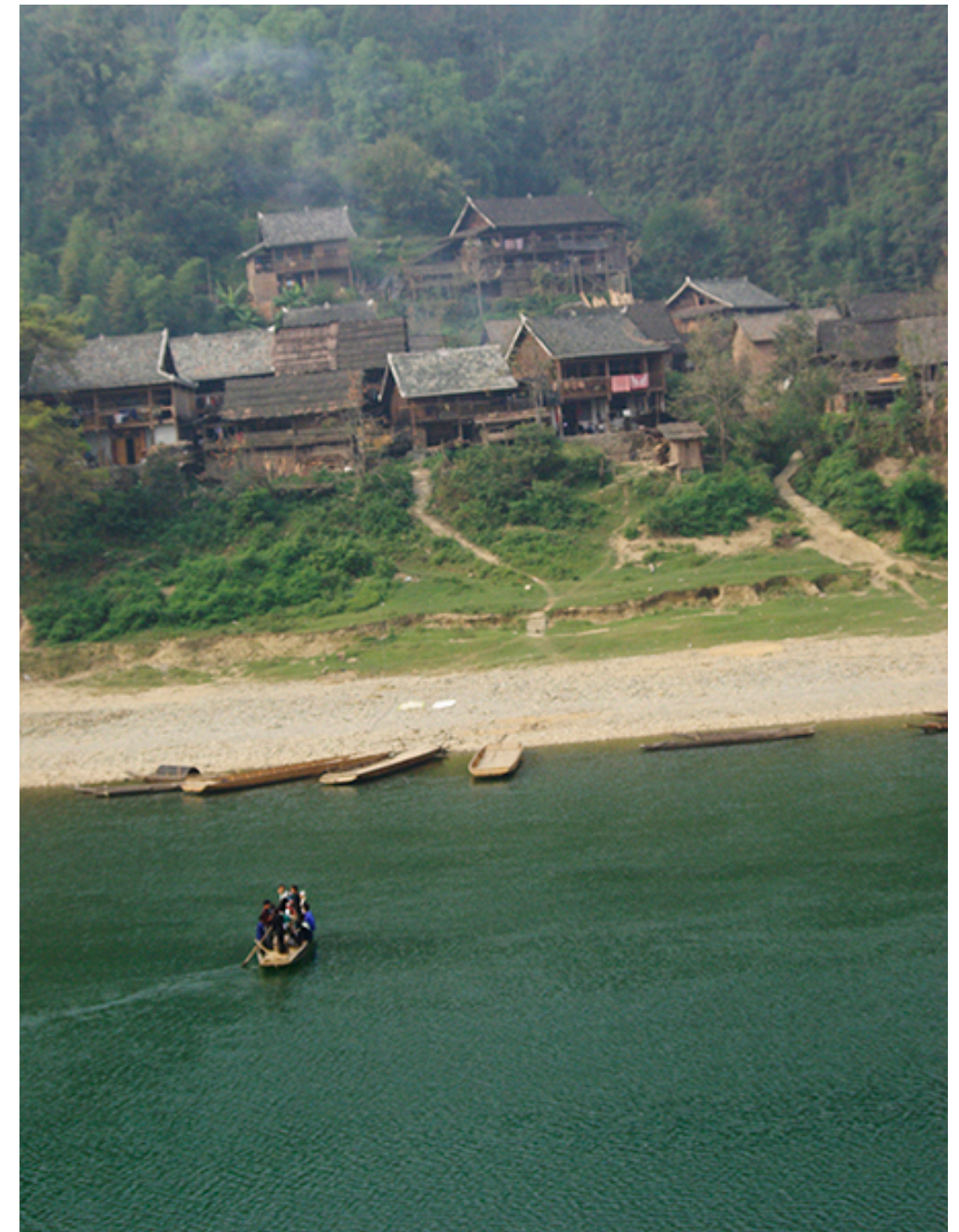
Step 3 ⇒ We will send you the invoice confirming you have been booked on the tour. Once you receive the invoice, you have 30 days to pay an additional £500, which will secure your place on the tour.

Step 4 ⇒ Please note that the final cost of the tour will be based on the number of participants and will be split into two payments. The first payment must be made within 3 months of the tour's start date and is based on the minimum price of the tour minus your £600 deposit. After that, you will need to pay the remaining balance one month before the tour is due to leave based on the tour subscription. In the meantime, we will advise you on how to apply for your visa and keep you updated on the subscription of the tour.

Step 5 ⇒ Once you have made the final payment, we will send you our exclusive tour e-book, which contains a detailed itinerary of the tour and in-depth information on the areas we'll be visiting.

Step 6 ⇒ Prepare yourself for an unforgettable adventure!

We are happy to answer any questions you may have and we will always keep you up to date on the progress of the tour subscription.





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