

# Guizhou In-depth Exploration 8 Days

## Trip overview

Embark on a soul-stirring **8-day journey** through Guizhou, China's best-kept secret. This in-depth exploration is designed for travelers who crave more than just sightseeing; it is an immersion into a land where **dramatic Karst topography** meets ancient living traditions.

From the thunderous roar of the **Huangguoshu Waterfall** to the emerald waters of **Libo Xiaoqikong**, you will witness the raw power of nature. But the true heart of this tour lies in the mountains, where you'll step back in time in the **Miao and Dong ethnic villages**. Here, the rhythms of life are still dictated by silver craftsmanship, intricate embroidery, and the hauntingly beautiful "Grand Song" of the Dong people. This is not just a tour—it is a deep dive into the authentic spirit of Southwest China.

- **Durations:** 8 Days
- **Destinations:** Guiyang - Kaili - Liping - Congjiang - - Kaili - Guiyang
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://asiachinatour.com/guizhou-in-depth-exploration-8-days/>

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrival in Guiyang – Gateway to the World of Ethnic Minorities

Welcome to Guiyang! Your **8-day private Guizhou discovery** begins here. This journey is designed to immerse you in one of China's most ethnically diverse regions, home to the mysterious and vibrant cultures of the Miao, Dong, and other minority groups. Upon arrival at **Guiyang Longdongbao International Airport (KWE)**, your private guide and driver will greet you at the arrival hall and escort you to your downtown hotel in a comfortable private vehicle.

After checking in and refreshing yourself, we will begin our exploration at **Qianling Park**, a verdant sanctuary in the heart of the city. Our primary destination is the **Hongfu Temple**, the largest and most prestigious Zen Buddhist temple in Guizhou. Built in 1672, this architectural gem features grand halls, intricate rock carvings, and a serene **Pagoda Forest**—the final resting place of eminent monks.

As we stroll through the lush forest trails of the park, you'll likely encounter the famous resident **wild macaques**. These clever monkeys are a delight to watch, but please remember to **keep**

**food and shiny objects tucked away**, as they are known to be quite "naughty" with visitors' belongings! If time permits, we can also visit the **Qianling Zoo** within the park, which is home to tigers, lions, and even **giant pandas**.

**Dining Recommendation: (At your own expense)** For an authentic taste of the region, we recommend **Uncle Qian's Food Stall** near the iconic Jiaxiu Tower. Don't let the name fool you—this is a charming restaurant styled like a traditional Guizhou farmyard.

- **Must-try dishes:** We highly recommend the **Spicy Chicken**, **Glutinous Rice Intestine**, and **Fried Tofu Balls**.
- **Note:** Guiyang cuisine is famous for its **bold, spicy, and sour flavors**, often using fermented ingredients. It's an adventurous palate experience that defines the spirit of Southwest China! The average cost is approximately **CNY 70 (USD 10)** per person.

**Accommodation:** Holiday Inn Guiyang City Center (4 stars)

## Day 2: Guiyang - Kaili | Ancient Strongholds & The Unidentified Gejia Tribe

After a delicious western buffet breakfast, our day begins with a visit to **Qingyan Ancient Town**. Originally established in 1378 as a strategic military stronghold, this town is a time capsule of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. You can stroll along the **7-km-long ancient city wall** that snakes along the rugged cliffs, offering a panoramic view of the bustling stone-paved streets below. Beyond its military history, Qingyan is a foodie's paradise—don't miss the chance to savor local delicacies like the famous **Braised Pig's Foot**, **Rice Cake Porridge**, and the fragrant **Rose Sugar**.

Next, relax during a **2.5-hour private transfer** to **Kaili**, the gateway to Guizhou's ethnic soul. Our destination is **Matang Gejia Village**, home to the "Gejia"—a fascinating, unidentified minority group. Though officially classified as a branch of the Miao, the Gejia people maintain a distinct identity, culture, and costume. As you walk through the **cascading wooden houses** surrounded by emerald rice paddies, you'll see women in armor-like attire. Their striking **white flared headgear** and silver hairpins aren't just fashion; they represent the bow and arrow of their legendary ancestor who shot down the sun.

**Follow the Local Master: DIY Batik-dyeing Artwork** The Gejia people are world-renowned masters of **Batik art**. Today, we've arranged a special **hands-on workshop** for you to learn this ancient craft. Under the guidance of a local master, you will:

- **Sketch:** Draw your chosen patterns onto white cloth using a pencil.
- **Waxing:** Trace the designs with a traditional copper knife dipped in **molten wax**.
- **Dyeing:** Submerge your work in deep **indigo vats** before boiling it to reveal the stunning white-on-blue contrast. Take home your very own handmade artwork as a unique souvenir of your journey!

After this magical experience, enjoy some quiet time exploring the secluded village life before we escort you to your hotel in the heart of Kaili.

**Meals:** Western buffet breakfast

**Accommodation:** Banshan Hotel (Wanda Plaza in Kaili City Center) (4 stars)

### Day 3: Kaili - Liping | A Tale of Two Miaos & The Hidden Dong Paradise

Our private exploration today begins at a vibrant **local morning market**, offering a rare glimpse into the authentic pulse of Kaili. This bustling hub is a sensory feast, where you'll find everything from fresh mountain produce and delicate **bamboo handicrafts** to lively stalls of poultry and traditional snacks—a true slice of daily life in Guizhou.

Next, we drive to **Langde Miao Village**, home to the "Long Skirt Miao." The villagers' warmth and their kaleidoscopic national culture are legendary.

**The Grand 12-Course "Block-the-way" Wine Ceremony** Prepare for a welcome like no other. At the village entrance, elders and youth in full traditional regalia await you with the **12-course "block-the-way" rice wine**. In Miao culture, the more wine offered, the deeper the respect. The 12-course set is their **highest ceremonial honor**. The homemade brew is sweet and refreshing; if you're not a heavy drinker, a gentle sip is perfectly acceptable to show your appreciation.

Inside the village, enjoy an **authentic Folk Performance**. These aren't professional actors, but local farmers sharing their heritage through soulful singing, **Lusheng (reed pipe)** melodies, and rhythmic dancing. You're even invited to join the circle and dance hand-in-hand! For those seeking a bird's-eye view, a short hike up the hill reveals a **stunning panoramic vista** of the entire pristine village.

Our journey continues to the **Datang Short-Skirt Miao Village**, famous for a fashion tradition that has lasted for generations. Beyond the unique attire, the village is home to a remarkable **600-year-old architectural feat**: 47 wooden granaries built on stilts directly over the water. This ancient design naturally protects the grain from rodents and fire—a living testament to the ingenuity of the Miao people.

Finally, we transition to the land of the Dong minority, arriving at the secluded **Huanggang Dong Village**. Tucked into a narrow valley and shrouded by dense forests, this 800-year-old sanctuary is guarded by two majestic **Wind and Rain Bridges**. You will see five towering **Drum Towers**—spectacular wooden structures resembling giant cedar trees—each serving as the spiritual heart for different family clans. Far from the tourist crowds, Huanggang remains a "primitive paradise" where life moves at a peaceful, ancient pace. Tonight, we immerse ourselves completely in this tranquil Dong world.

**Meals:** Western buffet breakfast

**Accommodation:** Huanggang Hecang Suji Hotel

### Day 4: Liping - Congjiang - Zhaoxing | The Legend of Population Balance & China's Last Gunners

After a traditional Chinese breakfast, we bid farewell to Liping and journey deep into the dense forests of Congjiang to visit **Zhanli Dong Village**. This primitive settlement of only 800 people holds a mystery that has baffled outsiders for generations: its **perfectly balanced population**.

For centuries, the village's size has remained virtually unchanged. Nearly every family has exactly two children—typically one boy and one girl. Local lore attributes this extraordinary equilibrium to an ancient ancestral doctrine and a **mysterious herbal medicine** known only to the village elders.

Next, we transition from the quiet mystery of Zhanli to the rugged spirit of **Biasha (Basha) Miao Village**, famously recognized as **China's Last Gunner Tribe**. While firearms are strictly prohibited elsewhere in China, the men of Biasha have a special government dispensation to carry their traditional muskets—a symbol of their long-standing heritage as warriors and hunters. During your visit, you may witness the thrilling sight of these "last gunners" demonstrating their skills or firing their pieces in unison to celebrate a ceremony.

Beyond the gunpowder, Biasha holds a deeply moving tradition regarding the **circle of life**. When a child is born, the villagers **plant a tree** in their honor. This tree grows alongside the child, serving as a lifelong companion. Upon their death, the same tree is cut down to craft their coffin, and a **new tree is planted** on the grave. This beautiful, eco-conscious philosophy ensures that life continues in an eternal, green cycle.

After an awe-inspiring day of discovery, we continue our drive to **Zhaoxing**, the largest Dong village in China, for a restful evening.

**Meals:** Chinese Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Indigo Lodge (Qing Ding Ge)

## Day 5: Zhaoxing – Ecological Museums & The Soul of the Dong Grand Songs

Our morning begins at **Tang'an Dong Village**, a unique sanctuary recognized as the first **Ecological Museum** of the Dong people—a collaborative project between the Chinese and Norwegian governments. Cradled by emerald peaks, this remote valley settlement feels like a **living ink painting**, where ancient stilted wooden houses, mysterious graves, and ornate theater stages coexist in timeless harmony. At the village heart stands the magnificent **Drum Tower**, a majestic cedar-like structure where elders still gather to recount legends, and where the echoes of ancient village councils still linger. Don't miss the **ladle-shaped wells** and the stunning **stone-built terraced fields**, which transform through a palette of silver, green, and gold with the changing seasons.

Next, we embark on an **easy and leisurely 2.5-hour hike** back to Zhaoxing. This **off-the-beaten-path route** covers approximately 12 km (7.5 mi) along brick-paved paths and gentle stairs. It is a sensory feast: the first half of the journey showcases the **idyllic charm of terraced farmlands**, while the latter section dives into **lush forests and hidden valleys**. Along the way, you'll witness the quiet, primitive rhythm of daily life as local farmers tend to their ancestral lands.

This evening, prepare for a spiritual encounter with the **Dong Grand Songs** performance in Zhaoxing. This unique, polyphonic chorus relies on multiple voices without a conductor or instrumental accompaniment. Often imitating the **sounds of nature**—from the trill of birds to the babble of mountain streams—these songs are the Dong people's way of preserving their history and emotions. As the local saying goes: **"Food nourishes the body, and songs nourish the soul."**

**Meals:** Chinese Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Indigo Lodge (Qing Ding Ge)

## Day 6: Zhaoxing - Kaili | Ancient Papermaking & The Flavors of Guizhou

Today, we journey back toward **Kaili**, stopping in **Danzhai County** to uncover more hidden layers of Miao culture. Our first destination is **Shiqiao Miao Village**, a living treasury of a **1,000-year-old papermaking tradition**. Nestled along the tranquil Naogao River, the villagers have utilized the region's rich flora and pristine water to craft handmade paper from tree bark for generations. Walking down the iconic "**Paper Street**," you will witness the intricate, dozen-step process as raw bark is transformed into delicate white paper—a craft that has remained virtually unchanged since ancient times.

Our exploration continues at the **Qingman Short-skirt Miao Village**. Upon arrival, you will be welcomed by the hospitable locals, known for their distinctive and historic attire.

**Local Family Visit & Authentic Lunch** This noon, we have arranged a **special family visit**, offering you a seat at a local table for a **delicious homemade lunch**. This is a rare opportunity to engage with the residents in a meaningful way, learning firsthand about their daily lives and ancestral traditions. Afterward, stroll through the village to admire the **traditional wooden stilted buildings** that cling to the mountainside. As the recognized "**Hometown of Miao Embroidery**," Qingman's 600-year-old heritage is reflected in its exquisite textiles and intricate batik-dyeing techniques, which you can see being practiced in almost every household.

Following our visit, we will escort you back to the city center of Kaili for the evening.

**Dining Recommendation: (At your own expense)** You cannot visit the birthplace of **Sour Soup Fish** without trying this legendary Guizhou staple! This mouthwatering hot pot features fresh catfish or grass carp simmered in a **secret sour broth** made from traditionally fermented rice soup, marinated tomatoes, and chilies.

- **Top Picks:** We recommend **Donggala** or **Lianghuanzhai** for the best local experience. At Lianghuanzhai, you can even enjoy your meal served by staff in full **Miao-style regalia**. The average cost is approximately **CNY 90 (USD 13)** per person.

**Meals:** Chinese Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Banshan Hotel (Wanda Plaza in Kaili City Center) (4 stars)

## Day 7: Kaili - Guiyang | Architectural Melange & City Lights

This morning, we explore the 600-year-old **Xiasi Ancient Town**. Once a vital trading port in the early 19th century, Xiasi is a fascinating **architectural melting pot**. As you wander, you'll see an elegant blend of Southern Chinese courtyards, Hui-style white walls, and Fujianese designs, all standing alongside traditional **Miao and Dong structures**. At **Lusheng Square**, the spectacular Miao-style gate and the towering Dong Drum Tower offer a perfect backdrop for photos. Keep an eye out for the **Xiasi Dog**—a rare, white-coated breed native to the town. Known for its hunting prowess and distinctive look (some say it resembles a fluffy white bear or even a little pig!), this local icon has recently become an internet sensation.

In the afternoon, we return to Guiyang to visit the city's most iconic landmark: **Jiaxiu Tower**. First built in 1598, this magnificent **three-story wooden pavilion** stands gracefully on a giant rock in the middle of the Nanming River. It serves as a serene symbol of the city's long history and scholarly spirit. While the view from the tower is lovely by day, the area truly comes alive **at night**,

when the pavilion and its connecting bluestone bridges are bathed in golden light, casting a shimmering reflection upon the river.

We'll end our day at the bustling **Qingyun Road Night Market**. This neon-lit paradise is the ultimate destination for foodies. You can embark on a "culinary safari" to sample local favorites like **Siwawa (Vegetable Spring Rolls)**, **Potato Glutinous Cakes**, and the famous **Huaxi Beef Rice Noodles**. Beyond the snacks, the street is lined with trendy boutiques, quirky souvenir shops, and cozy pubs—perfect for experiencing Guiyang's **vibrant nightlife** at your own pace.

**Meals:** Western buffet breakfast

**Accommodation:** Holiday Inn Guiyang City Center (4 stars)

## Day 8: Departure from Guiyang

Today, your **8-day immersive Guizhou adventure** comes to a close. After a final western buffet breakfast at your hotel, your private guide and driver will escort you to **Guiyang Longdongbao International Airport (KWE)** or the railway station in time for your departure. As you head to your next destination, you'll carry with you the vibrant colors of ethnic festivals, the echoes of the Dong Grand Songs, and the breathtaking memories of Guizhou's hidden mountain gems. **We wish you a safe and pleasant journey!**

**Looking for your next adventure?** If your heart is still set on discovery, why not extend your journey? Guizhou's neighbors offer even more wonders that can be **custom-tailored to your interests**:

- **Guangxi:** Drift down the picturesque **Li River** in Guilin or cycle through the idyllic, limestone-peaked countryside of **Yangshuo**.
- **Yunnan:** Explore the sacred **Jade Dragon Snow Mountain**, the ancient cobblestone streets of Lijiang, or the adrenaline-pumping depths of the **Tiger Leaping Gorge**.

Whether it's exploring more ethnic cultures or witnessing world-class natural wonders, our travel consultants are ready to design your next **bespoke China experience**.

**Meals:** Western buffet breakfast

## Booking Policy

### Cancellation Policy

#### Cancellation by Customer

- Cancellation received before 60 days: **FREE** of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 20% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 40% of total rate

- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 70% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

## Children Policy

The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults.

- For infant (<04 years old): Free of Charge
  - 04 - 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate
  - 04 - 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
  - Above 11 years old with extra bed: 100% adult rate
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