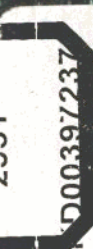


中国西部
WEST CHINA



Yunnan



CHINA INTERCONTINENTAL PRESS

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YUNNAN



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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

云南/云南省人民政府新闻办公室编.——北京:五洲传播出版社,
2002.6

(中国西部丛书)

ISBN 7-5085-0067-9

I. 云... II. 云... III. 云南省—概况—英文 IV. K927.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2002) 第 039466 号

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版式设计: 刘立华

中国西部——云南

五洲传播出版社

地址: 中国北京北三环中路 31 号 邮编: 100088 电话: 82008174

网址: www.cicc.org.cn

开本: 140mm X 203mm 1/32 印张: 4.25

2002 年 6 月第一版 第一次印刷 印数: 1—25000

ISBN 7-5085-0067-9/K·340

定价: RMB 26.00 元



Preface

The large-scale development of western China is called a "century project." It has captured the world's imagination because the region promises brilliant prospects for development and exceptional opportunities for business.

People are paying close attention to, exploring and studying the west. They want to know everything about it, hence the visitors, reporters and fact-finding groups heading west and the steady stream of letters and E-mails asking for information material. They are anxious because delay means lagging behind and letting a golden opportunity slip away. In order to unveil and display the western region to the world, China Intercontinental Press has compiled the *Introduction to Western China Series*.

Western China, with its peculiar glamor and profound historic content, has many things that need an introduction.

It is the place where the remains of the earliest primitive people in China were found. Yunnan's Yuanmou Ape Man existed 1.7 million years ago and Shaanxi's Lantian Ape Man existed 800,000 years ago.

It was the political, economic and cultural center of China prior to the 10th century. Thirteen dynasties spanning more than 1,100 years, including the Zhou, Qin, Han, Sui and Tang, established their capitals in Shaanxi.

It is an area inhabited by a large number of ethnic minorities. A total of

47 nationalities live in Xinjiang and 25 nationalities live in Yunnan. Each ethnic group has its own distinctive culture and customs.

It is China's treasure house of resources and boasts abundant resources under the ground as well as on the ground. Statistics reveal that 160 minerals have been discovered in the region. Reserves of rare metals account for more than 90 percent of the national total and hydropower reserves account for over 80 percent. Furthermore, the western region has a rich variety of biological resources and is praised as a "kingdom of plants, "a"kingdom of animals" and a "biological gene bank. "

It is an important passageway leading to the outside world. The ancient Silk Road linked China with Central Asia, South Asia and Europe, and now the Eurasian Continental Bridge traverses the region. Not only a commercial passageway, western China also was the region where the Yellow River valley culture, the Ganges River valley culture, the ancient Greek culture and the Persian culture underwent exchange and integration.

It is a tourist attraction with countless scenic spots, some of which have been listed by UNESCO as world natural and cultural heritage sites.

And so on so forth. To present a complete picture of the western region, the compilers have arranged the series according to administrative divisions introducing each province, autonomous region and municipality in the region one by one. Even so, I'm afraid the presentation is incomplete.

Change in the western region is rapid, and the Chinese idiom "changes occur with each passing day" is no exaggeration when used to describe the present situation in the region. The authors of the books say their biggest headache was dealing with statistical data, especially economic figures. They made sure that every figure in the books has been treated earnestly and verified several times. However, they can't guarantee that the figures will still be true when you read the books. These figures only reflect the situation during a specific period of time. Even so, they are valuable as reference.

Since the reform and opening drive, the Chinese economy has witnessed many miracles. It is expected that more miracles will take place in the large-scale development of the western region. In a Chinese song entitled "The Story of Spring," there are lyrics that say: "The year 1979 was a spring. An old man drew a circle by the South China Sea. Miraculously, cities mushroomed and gold mountains grew." Today, western development represents another enormous circle because it covers half of the country.

The day victory is declared in western development will be the day when the entire Chinese nation takes off.

Li Bing
October 2000

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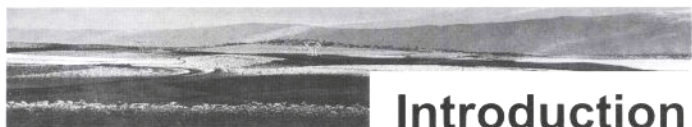
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Location of Yunnan Province in China's Map



Administrative Divisions of Yunnan Province





Introduction

Yunnan is a mysterious and beautiful land. It's endowed with charming and unique natural landscape and ethnic conditions and customs.

---- There are various types of climate in Yunnan and one can experience the tropical, temperate and frigid here.

----Of the over 30,000 kinds of plants of China, 17,000 species can be found in Yunnan, which make up 62.9% of the total number of higher plants of China.

----Of the 25,000 kinds of insects in China, 13,000 have been found in Yunnan.

----Yunnan has the largest number of native ethnic groups in China. Of the 25 ethnic minority groups, 15 are found only in Yunnan.

----Yunnan borders on three countries: Burma, Laos and Vietnam, with a 4,060-kilometer boundary line.

----Yunnan enjoys a reputation as the kingdom of plants, animals and non-ferrous minerals, a treasure bank of medicine and a flower garden of China.

Yunnan is a land full of vitality and hope, with the deepening reform and opening-up, more and more people begin to recognize its advantages in abundant natural resources, exceptionally good climate, and unique location. Now 42.88 million people of all nationalities in Yunnan are making great efforts to build Yunnan into China's powerhouse in terms of green economy and ethnic culture as well as China's international passage to south and southeast Asia.

This book will show you the nature landscape and the new look of Yunnan's society by opening beautiful and charming windows one by one, so after reading it, you will care about Yunnan more, with a newly aroused passion for helping and developing Yunnan.

We hope this book could act as a guide for you to know more about Yunnan.

Geographical conditions and historic evolution

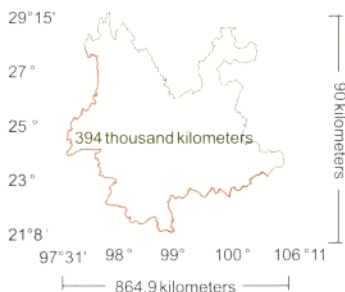


unique environment

Yunnan, a beautiful and mysterious province in the southwest part of China, is a poetic land. The short name of Yunnan is "dian" or "yun", which means "south of the clouds", because it lies to the south of the Cloud Mountains (Yun Ling Shan). It borders the vast Asian Continent and the Indo-China subcontinent.

Yunnan is located at longitude East $97^{\circ}1'39'' \rightarrow 106^{\circ}1'47''$ and latitude North $21^{\circ}32'' \rightarrow 29^{\circ}5'8''$, Yunnan borders on Guizhou province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in the east, Sichuan province in the north, Tibetan Autonomous Region in the northwest. It borders Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam to its west and south and southwest, With the longest borderline of 4060 kilometers in China, eight prefectures of Yunnan border on foreign countries. The frontier line is fairly long, with a lot of ports.

Yunnan ranks the eighth in the country in terms of its territory which is 394,000 square kilometers, with



864.8 kilometers from the east to the west and 900 kilometers from the south to the north, following Xinjiang, Tibet, Qinghai, Helongjiang, Sichuan, Gansu and Inner Mongolia. When compared with other countries, Yunnan is bigger than Japan and

Italy, and almost equal to Zimbabwe. Altogether Yunnan Province has 16 prefectures and cities and 128 counties (towns).

Yunnan has a population of 42.88 million. Among the 56 ethnic groups in China, 52 live in Yunnan. The populations which surpass 5000 include Han, Yi, Bai, Hani, Dai, Zhuang, Miao, Lisu, Hui, Lahu, Va, Naxi, Yao, Jingpo, Tibetan, Blang, Pumi, Achang, Nu, Jino, Deang (Penglong), Mongolian, Shui, Man and Drung, and 15 are unique to Yunnan. The population of minorities is 14.6 million, which accounts for one third of the total population of Yunnan. In the 4060-kilometer borderline with Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam, 16 minorities live across the border.

Yunnan is high in the northwest and low in the southeast, with a clear ladder physiognomy. Over 94 percent of the province is rugged mountains, highland and hills; and the remainder consists of valleys and lowland. It is a typical province with plateau mountains.

The geological structure of Yunnan is a miracle. It is the southern extension of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. The formation of the Himalayas lifted the ridge of the land from the sea, and formed the longitudinal valley of the Hengduan Mountains with several high mountain ranges running from south to north. In the valley, Yunling Mountain, Nushan Mountain and Gaoligong



White Snow Mountain

Mountain are pressed into the long and narrow belt, while Jiangsha River, Langcang River and Nujiang River run across Yunnan province. Between Langcang River and Jinsha River, Yunjiang River rises in the mountains and joins with the other main river systems. Here the pushing water produces roars. With cragged ridges and peaks, here exists the world famous Nujiang Gorge.

The longitudinal valley is fan-shaped and extends from northwest to southeast. It divides the topography of Yunnan into two parts: in the east, it is Yunnan Plateau, and its average altitude is about 2000 meters above sea level. The eastern part is characterized by various types of karstland and has numerous plateau lakes. In the west of the dividing line is the longitudinal valley, where peaks alternate with deep gorges, rivers running in length and breadth, the fall of the peak and valley being extremely great, thus forming a charming precipitous topography. There are the Jinsha, Nanpan, Lancang

Yunnan Ethnic Village



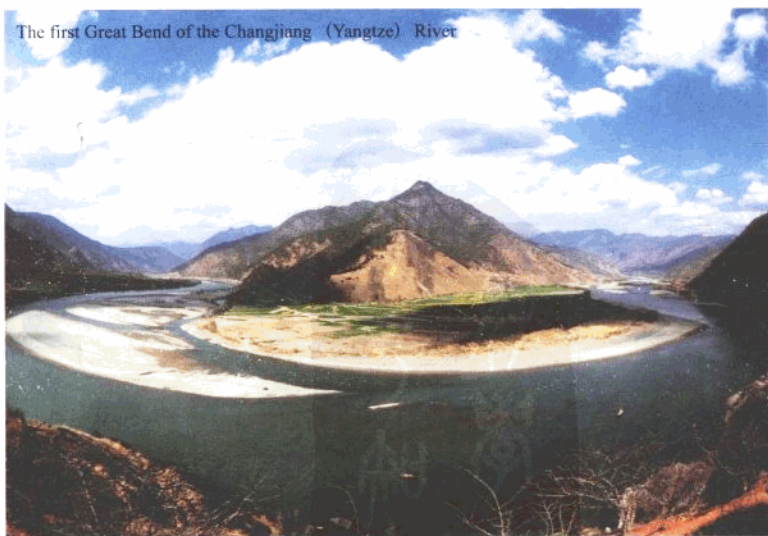
(Mekong), Nujiang (Salween) , Yuanjiang (Honghe), Dulong (Irrawaddy) Rivers systems, almost all the most important water systems in Southeast Asia.

Some other places with the same latitude as Yunnan in the earth are the hot vast Sahara, the Hawaiian islands full of tropical passion and the Indian plains with the mysterious Ganges. Located in the low latitude, but on the plateau, Yunnan has complicated landforms, so it forms a very changeable climate.

The direct distance from the highest point to the lowest is 900 kilometers, sloping from the northwest to the southeast. The highest point, 6740 meters above sea level, is Peak Kagobo on Deqing plateau in Deqin County, northwest of Yunnan, and its lowest, 76.4 meters above sea level, is the valley of the Honghe River at Hekou county. On average, its altitude falls about six meters every kilometer.

The changes in temperature among the eight latitudes in Yunnan corre-

The first Great Bend of the Changjiang (Yangtze) River



spond to the seasonal changes of temperature from Hainan Island in south China to Changchun, Jilin province, in northeast China. So Yunnan has a glacier at the lowest latitude in China, snow-capped mountains, the basin like spring all year around of sub-tropical climate and hot valleys and beautiful scenery full of tropical plants. In Yunnan, the temperature change of a one-kilometer rise in elevation equals the change in every 1,400-2,500 km of latitudinal extension in other places in China.

Usually, the top of the mountains are covered with snow; lower down the mountainside, the climate is very mild and comfortable; in the valley, it is quite hot. One can experience the climate and natural scenery from the sub-temperate to north tropical with the changes of altitude no more than several thousand meters. This kind of climate gives Yunnan various types of local conditions.

"The four seasons being like spring" is the mostly used term for people to describe the climate of Yunnan. If you are not here, it's difficult to understand the meaning of "one is able to experience four seasons in one mountain and there are different weathers in ten Li." It is well-known that Yunnan has other names such as the kingdom of plants, animals, non-ferrous metals, medicinal herbs and tourism, the natural garden, the native place of flavor as well.

The climate and favourable geographical position bring up the colorful environment of plateau, and gestate the rich and unique natural ecology. From the tropical forest in Xishuangbannan, to the Meili Snow Mountain in Diqing Plateau, people can see marvelous views with a variation of latitude and altitude.

Age-old history

Yunnan has a long history. About 500 million years ago, during the Cambrian Period, the earth experienced a big explosion, leaving some traces



Yunnan has 52 nationalities

The area of block basins (Bazi) occupying 6% of the total area of Yunnan, while the mountainous and half-mountainous regions account for 94%.

in the Maotian Mountain in Chengjiang County in central Yunnan. The ancient animal fossils found in Chengjiang were first announced to the public in 1984 by a paleontologist.

This was one of the most amazing scientific discoveries in paleontology in the 20th century. They are dated as being between the Australian "animal fossils" and Canadian "animal fossils". It has been designated as one of the "three wonders of early evolution on earth" and has been put on the World Cultural Heritage List.

During the Mesozoic period, Yunnan had a warm climate so tropical and subtropical plants were everywhere. The giant herbivorous dinosaurs roamed at leisure, until one day in the Cretaceous period, these behemoths suddenly disappeared.

Many years later, people found their large fossil skeletons in Lufeng county. In Jianning county by the side of Dianchi lake, people also found more than 200 footsteps left by Jurassic dinosaurs.

Yunnan is one of the important birthplaces of human beings. The discoveries of Lama anthropoid fossils in Kaiyuan (14 million years ago), Lufeng (eight million years ago), and Yuanmou (1.7 million years ago) proved the evolution from ape to human beings. In many areas in Yunnan Province there are cultural remains of the Paleolithic Age and the Neolithic Age, which are the traces that Yunnan entered into the primitive society at that time, represented by Lijiang and Xichou human beings.

The cultural remains in Haimenkou in Jianchuan indicate that many