

GUIZHOU TOURISM



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P.R.C.

The Golden Summit of Mt Fanjingshan

Guizhou Tourism

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Guizhou People's Publishing House

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Welcome to Guizhou!

Guizhou Province is located in Southwest China with a population of 36 million, officially made up of 76 county units (including 4 special districts and 11 autonomous counties), 3 cities at prefectural level (Guiyang, Liupanshui and Zunyi), 10 cities at county level (Anshun, Kaili, Duyun, Xingyi, Tongren, Bijie, Chishui, Qingzhen, Renhuai and Fuquan). Guiyang is the capital, under the administration of which there are five districts and three counties. For the convenience of travellers, this introduction organizes Guizhou tourism according to its nine prefectural units with their beautiful scenic spots as well as their exotic ethnic customs.

The province covers an area of about 176000 sq km. Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou Province, is the political, economic and cultural center of the province as well as the hub of transportation and communication in Southwest China. It is connected by air and rail to all the major cities in China. There are five special trains for tourism: **Fanjingshanhao** to Zhenyuan and Yuping (Tongren), **Wuyanghehao** to Hangzhou, **Huaxihao** to Kunming, **Zunyihao** to Zunyi City and **Maotaihao** to Beijing.

Guizhou is home to a pleasant climate, charming mountains and waters, virgin forests and well-preserved natural ecosystem, and rich in natural resources. Its fantastic karst landscape is characterized by amazing pikes, streams and karst caves, forming an exotic wonderland where the Han and ethnic groups, such as the Miao, Buyi, Dong, Yi and a dozen others have been cultivating the land, dancing and singing since time immemorial. Their customs and lifestyles are simple and natural. All these factors make up the unique natural scenery of this beautiful land.

Guizhou boasts the **Huangguoshu Waterfalls**, the **Dragon Palace**, **Xiaoqikong** (Zhangjiang National Scenic Zone), the **Hongfeng Lake**, the **Zhijin Cave**, **Chishui National Scenic Zone**,

the Malinghe Valley, and the Wuyanghe River as its eight national scenic spots and **Mt Fanjingshan, Maolan Karst Virgin Forest, Chishui Spinulose Tree Fern Nature Reserve, Caohai Nature Reserve and Xishui Broad-Leafed Forest Reserve** as its five national nature reserves. Apart from those mentioned above, it has 24 provincial scenic spots as well as a dozen ethnic villages which are very attractive to tourists. The province has already received millions of overseas tourists from all over the world as well as more domestic visitors across the country so far.

Guizhou is opening up to the outside world with its rapidly developing tourism. Traffic and transportation have been much improved. Hotel facilities have also been basically improved, more than 60 tourist hotels including two four-star hotels (Guizhou Park Hotel and Holliday Inn) and dozens of star hotels. There are a dozen tourist agencies with many interpreters and tour guides versed in various languages.

Guizhou and its neighbors, Yunnan, Guangxi and Sichuan Provinces, are forming a network of tourism which will make Guizhou a new off-the-beaten-track mecca for tourists. If caves, lakes, waterfalls and tropical forests are your ideal get-away, Guizhou Province may be just the place you've been looking for. So we invite sincerely our friends both at home and abroad:
COME AND SEE GUIZHOU!

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Director of Guizhou Tourism Administration,
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The Map of Guizhou Tourism

Chapter 1

Guizhou — The Province of Parks

I Guizhou — The Province of Parks

Long long ago, it happened that a woman was doing washing in the Dunshui River (possibly the present Beipanjiang River in the south of Guizhou) when a three-joint section of bamboo came floating between her legs. She tried to push it away, but it came back and remained there. All of a sudden, she heard a baby crying and it seemed to come from within the tube. So she took the tube home and cut it open. To her great surprise, she found a baby boy inside. She was very happy to keep the boy as her own son and left the slices of the bamboo in the wild. The bamboo slices should grow into a bamboo forest soon. Thus, the boy was given “Zhu” (meaning bamboo in Chinese) as his surname.

With time passing by, the baby Zhu grew up to be a very clever boy with excellent martial art skills. One day on an excursion, Zhu took a short rest on a great rock and told his attendants to prepare food. The attendants answered their master, “There is no water here, sir.” The young man then took out his sword and struck at the rock on which he was sitting. Water gushed down immediately from the opening. Later, Zhu’s magic power helped him establish a kingdom in a beautiful land, with himself as king. Today, that beautiful land is Guizhou Province.

Guizhou Province, now simply referred to as Qian in Chinese, is located in the southwest corner of China. It covers an area of 176128 sq km (67992 sq miles), or 1.8% of the total area of China. 87% of the province is mountainous (above 500 metres/1640 feet), 10% hilly (200 ~ 500 metres/656 ~ 1640 feet) and the remaining 3% a flat plain, mainly consisting of small basins (called “bazi” in local Guizhou dialect) along the rivers or among the mountains. Its magnificent mountain scenery has earned Guizhou another name — the Province of Parks.

Guizhou has a diverse population of 36 million. Under

provincial jurisdiction are 3 cities at prefectural level, 3 administrative prefectures and 3 minority nationality autonomous prefectures. Guiyang, the biggest city and capital of the province, is the political, economic and cultural center.

Guizhou is a multicultural province with the fifth largest ethnic population in China. 17 distinct ethnic groups live alongside the Han Chinese who have migrated there from different regions of the country. The variety of ethnic groups living in Guizhou make up 34% of the total population of 36 million (about 1197000 figure up to 1998). A major charm of the province for travellers is the number of ethnic festivals, resplendent with color and suffused with music, that take place throughout the year and that remain an important part of continuing traditional lifestyles and customs.

Guizhou is bordered by Yunnan to the west, Sichuan to the north, Hunan to the east and Guangxi to the south. Situated between north latitudes 24° and 29°, east longitudes 103° and 109°, Guizhou has a warm and humid subtropical climate with mild winter and cool summer. Influenced by monsoons from the SE, Guizhou has a rich rainfall, which gives this mountainous region a large diversity of natural species of wildlife and a pleasant climate for tourism.

Seasonly Average Temperature & Humidity in Guizhou

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Temperature	15.8°	23.1°	16°	6.2°
Humidity	75%	78%	77%	78%

The total annual average rainfall: 1181 mm (46.4 inches)

Guizhou has a varied topography. Karst landforms are geographically well-preserved and cover 73% of the total land. The magnificent natural scenery of the landscape and exquisite caves and stones, such as the Huangguoshu Waterfalls, the Dragon Palace, the Hongfeng Lake, the Zhijin Cave and the Wuyanghe River represents the best of the karst landforms in this land. So Guizhou is rich in natural resources of scenery. Its natural beauty lies in its mountains, waters, karst caves and forests. The mountains of

Guizhou present a magnificent sight with precipitous cliffs towering over deep valleys; and hills rolling one after another with peaks varying each in a unique way.

The Wumeng and Dalou mountain areas in Northern Guizhou, the highest in Guizhou, run southwest to northeast. Jiucaiping, a peak of the Wumeng Mountains in West Guizhou, dwarfs all the others with an elevation of 2900 meters (8200 feet), and is the highest geographical point of the province. To the southeast of these mountains is a dissected limestone plateau with an average height of 1,000 metres (3,280 feet) and falling to 200 ~ 500 metres (650 ~ 1640 feet) in the valleys.

Mt Fanjingshan, the highest peak of the Wuling Mountains in the northeast part of Guizhou, is a famous national nature reserve in China, where the subtropical forest ecosystem is well preserved. It has an abundance of wildlife and is an interesting place for tourists. In the southeast of Guizhou stands Mt Leigongshan covered with a virgin forest and lush vegetation. There are many other mountains, such as Mt Miaoling in Central Guizhou which is the watershed and almost a symbol of this mountainous province. Mt Qianlingshan, famous for its long religious tradition, is located on the outskirts of Guiyang.

The stone forests in Guizhou are another amazing spectacle for tourists. Thousands of weathered limestone and dolomite rocks stand upright like trees in the forest, arousing viewer's imagination with their queer and fantastic shapes. The Tianxingqiao Stone Forest in Anshun, the Nidang Stone Forest in Xingyi and Zhulingbao Stone Forest in Zhenfeng are among the highlights.

The Guizhou plateau is a meandering wonderland which rises sporadically out of the Himalaya mountain range. The western section of the plateau, which measures between 1500 and 2400 meters above the sea level, gradually slopes eastwards towards the low mountains and foothills of Hunan province, even as low as 205 meters above sea level in the basin of Tongren city of East Guizhou.

Between the Changjiang (Yangtse River) and the Zhujiang (Pearl River) runs their mountain divide, the Miaoling mountain

range. A dense river system flows outwards from the Miaoling mountain range, fanning out to the east, north and south away from the plateau. The overall drop in the river water flow is quite considerable and because of the many fissures and cracks in the area, serious erosion and corrosion has occurred, resulting in many different kinds of waterfalls, drops, rapids and pools or lakes. The direction of the underground water divide is the same as that of the surface water divide and thus subterranean rivers and streams, swallow holes and subterranean waterfalls of great strength are to be found in abundance throughout the land, as with the above-ground river system.

Guizhou's landscape owes much of its beauty to its rivers, ponds, lakes and waterfalls. The water surface takes 1.5% of the total land. Located on the eastern slope of the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, Guizhou decreases in height from northwest to southeast. It is part of two major river basins, the Changjiang (Yangtse River) and the Xijiang (the upper reaches of the Pearl River) with the Miaoling mountain area the watershed in Central Guizhou. The Wujiang and its tributaries flow north into the Changjiang connecting Guizhou with Sichuan Province to the north. Rivers in the south, such as the Beipan and Nanpan, are tributaries of the Hongshuihe River which becomes the Xijiang in the lower reaches, finally rushing into Guangdong in the south. The beautiful Jinjiang River meanders through Tongren Prefecture into Hunan Province. There are still more like the Qingshuijiang, the upper reaches of the Yuanjiang River, which flows through South Guizhou, and the Duliuijiang with their small tributaries into Guangxi and hundreds of underground rivers in karst caves forming a lot of springs, ponds and lakes. The potential for hydroelectricity is estimated at about 18744700 kilowatts, the sixth greatest source in China.

Moulded by the conditions of the land through which they flow, the waters rush through narrow valleys between soaring cliffs, fall into deep pools from heights, or, sometimes, flow sluggishly, encouraging the lush growth of all kinds of aquatic vegetation. River courses are decorated with scenic spots, many of which have been ranked as key national or provincial beauty spots, such as the Wuyanghe River Scenic Spot in the southeast of Guizhou, the Liuzhonghe River Scenic Spot in Northwest Guizhou and the Malinghe Valley Scenic Spot in Xingyi Prefecture. Situated on the

Baishui River in the west of Guizhou and 150 km from Guiyang, the Huangguoshu Waterfall, 74 meters high and 81 meters wide, is the largest in Asia. The Baishui River rushes down the falls with the momentum of an avalanche, presenting a powerful sight. There are still many more waterfalls with their own unique beauty, such as the waterfalls in the Tianxingqiao Scenic Spot, the Shizhangdong Waterfall in Chishui, The Longwangtan Waterfalls in Congjiang and the Pingliang Waterfall in Kaili.

Ponds and lakes are among the real charms of this mountainous province. The Caohai Lake (the Sea of Waterweeds and Grass), a national nature reserve, lies like an emerald in West Guizhou and is a winter home for various kinds of birds. The Hongfeng (Red Maple) Lake in Qingzhen, the Tianhetan (the Milky Way) Pool, the Baihua Lake and the Qianling Lake, in and around the Guiyang area, are so beautiful that they are described as "pearls on the plateau".

The frequent alternation between surface water and ground water has produced catenuliform subterranean rivers which flow in both underground and above-ground courses, giving rise to a very wide and thick perpetual and perpendicular belt. All of these geological and geographical features have provided exceptionally favourable conditions for the emergence and development of karst beneath the Guizhou Province.

As the geological structure of Guizhou is characterized by sedimentary limestone rocks, karst caves are found everywhere. It is not an exaggeration to say: **Where there is a hill, there is a cave; where there is a cave, there is a wonder.** Thousands of karst caves have been explored and about seventy have been opened to tourists. Among them are the Longgong Cave (Dragon Palace), 27 km away from Anshun City, Zhijin Cave in Zhijin County, Bailongdong Cave (the Underground Park) in Guiyang, and Feilongdong (Flying-Dragon) Cave in Xingyi. The dramatic formations of limestone deposits, including stalactites and stalagmites, stone columns and waterfalls, form a wonderland in each cave.

The naturally beautiful scenery of Guizhou is now open to the world and has enchanted thousands of tourists, and won national

and international acclaim. So bizarre are the limestone deposits in the caves that they encourage the imagination to see grotesque shapes of figures.

Guizhou boasts eight national scenic spots, five national nature reserves and 24 provincial scenic spots.

The eight national scenic spots are:

1. **Huangguoshu Waterfalls** in Zhenning County, 150 km from Guiyang;
2. **Longgong (Dragon Palace)** in Anshun, 127 km from Guiyang;
3. **Hongfeng (Red Maple) Lake** in Qingzhen, 33 km from Guiyang;
4. **Zhijin Cave** in Zhijin County, 157 km from Guiyang;
5. **Zhangjiang (Xiaoqikong)** in Libo, South Guizhou, 357 km from Guiyang;
6. **Chishui National Scenic Zone**, Zunyi Prefecture;
7. **Malinghe Valley**, only six km from Xingyi City and 366 km from Guiyang;
8. **Wuyanghe River** between Shibing and Zhenyuan, 348 km away from Guiyang.

The five national nature reserves are:

1. **Mt. Fanjing** in Tongren Prefecture, 570 km away from Guiyang;
2. **Maolan Karst Virgin Forest** in Libo, Qiannan Prefecture;
3. **Chishui Spinulose Tree Fern Nature Reserve** in Zunyi Prefecture;
4. **Caohai Nature Reserve** in Bijie Prefecture, 423 km away from Guiyang and;
5. **Xishui Broad-Leafed Forest Reserve** in Zunyi.

The twenty-four provincial scenic spots are:

1. **Nidang Stone Forest** in Qianxinan Prefecture;
2. **Lubuge Scenic Spot** in Qianxinan Prefecture;
3. **Shanchahe River** in Zhenfeng, Qianxinan Prefecture;
4. **Suoshai** in Puding, Qianxinan Prefecture;
5. **Anlong Zhaodi Causeway**, Qianxinan Prefecture;
6. **Sajingu Valley** in Fuquan County, Qiannan Prefecture;
7. **Jiangjiehe River** in Weng'an County, Qiannan Prefecture;

8. **Jianjiang River** in Duyun, Qiannan Prefecture;
9. **Houzigou (Monkey) Valley** in Longli County, Qiannan Prefecture;
10. **Bazhouhe River** in Liping, Qiandongnan Prefecture;
11. **Longaohe River** in Cengong County, Qiandongnan Prefecture;
12. **Zangkejiang River** in Liuzhi Special District;
13. **Loushanguan Pass** in Tongzi County, Zunyi Prefecture;
14. **Kuankuoshui** in Suiyang County, Zunyi Prefecture;
15. **The One-Hundred-Li Azalea Belt** between Dafang and Qianxi, 177 km from Guiyang;
16. **Xishui Scenic Spot** in Xishui County, Zunyi Prefecture;
17. **Jiudongtian Cave** in Nayong County, Bijie Prefecture;
18. **Jiulongdong Cave** in Tongren Prefecture;
19. **Taipinghe River** of Mt Fanjingshan, Tongren Prefecture;
20. **Shiqian Hot Springs** in Shiqian County, Tongren Prefecture;
21. **Yangming dong Cave** in Xiuwen County, in the Guiyang area;
22. **Huaxi Park** in the Guiyang area;
23. **Baihua Lake** near Guiyang City and;
24. **Xifeng Resort** in Xifeng County in the Guiyang area.

In the following sections, there are more details about the ecological system of this mysterious land. If you prefer adventure tours, remember that some of the areas are still off-the-beaten-track and covered with virgin vegetation, surely with some unexpected exciting discoveries as well as unknown dangers.

II Historic Sites, Cultural Relics & Ethnic Customs

Tourists who come to Guizhou are often overwhelmed by its natural charms, colorful customs, lifestyles and traditions of ethnic groups. They are also attracted by the historical sites and cultural relics in this area.

● **Zunyi**, located in the north of Guizhou, is a famous revolutionary and historical city, where the Zunyi meeting was held in 1935, a great historic event which marks the turning point of Chinese revolutionary history. The Museum of the Zunyi Meeting, Hongjunshan (Red Armymen's Hill) and Loushanguan Pass are

among the highlights of local tourism.

● **Zhenyuan**, situated on the lower reaches of the Wuyanghe River, is an ancient town with a history of more than 2000 years. As one of the 38 state's major historical and cultural cities, Zhenyuan has many places of historical and cultural lusterests. It has many ancient buildings including pavilions, bridges, palaces and temples. All are well-preserved because of its remote location and have proved to be important and valuable in the development of the civilization of Guizhou.

● **The Hongfu Monastery, Jiaxiu Pavilion and Yangming Temple** in Guiyang; **Yangmingdong Cave** in Xiuwen; **The Unkown Inscription on the Red Cliff** in Guanling County are all under provincial protection. There are also thousands of local historical sites and cultural relics scattered all over the province. When you travel across this land, you will surely come across many of these.

There are 51 well-known ancient tombs and mausoleums of historical figures in Guizhou, and their building dates back to the Qing, Ming, Song and even Han Dynasties. Two are under the special protection of the state: the Mausoleums of Yang Can and Lady She Xiang. The Mausoleum of Yang Can, a military commissioner of Bozhou in the Southern Song Dynasty, lies in the southern suburbs of present Zunyi City, and has a history of about 700 years. The excavated artifacts are helpful in the studies of the Song Dynasty.

● **The Eighteen Scholars' Tomb** in the Anlong countytown, Qianxinan Prefecture, is also under provincial protection. It reminds us of a sad story of the faded Ming Dynasty when the Qing Dynasty was taking its place.

● **The Mausoleum of Lady She Xiang** was built in the Qing Dynasty on the outskirts of the present Dafang countyseat as a memorial to She Xiang, a Yi nationality lady who made a big contribution to the stability of the multicultural population and development of Guizhou.

● **Stone Age artifacts** are found in at least 20 of Guizhou

counties, also attesting to their rich history. Here are some famous ones:

● **The bronze horse-and-cart** of the Eastern Han Dynasty, 88 cm high and 112 cm long, is one of the precious historical relics. It was unearthed in Wantun in Xingyi in 1957. It represents the highly-artistic feats of that time.

● **Puding Chuangdong** (Tunnel Cave), discovered in a mountain and five km away from Puding countyseat, was a cave of primitive people in the Stone Age. It was excavated in 1981, and the two skulls of apemen, about 400 bone artifacts and over 2000 stone artifacts provided archaeologists with thrilling discoveries about the origin of human civilization.

● **Dadong** (Big Cave in Chinese) in Paxian was found to contain surprising ancient fossils and stone artifacts made by the primitives who once lived there. It is so valuable that experts from the Chinese Academy of Sciences have suggested closing the cave for the moment until enough money is collected to explore the cave thoroughly.

● **Guizhou Dragon Museum** in Xingyi City was built in 1996. "Guizhou Dragons" are found in a variety of new species, never discovered in other areas, of long distinguished dinosaurs. Most of the fossilized "Guizhou dragons" are small in size less than 30 cm, which surprised many researchers when they saw them for the first time.

● **Datun Headman's Castle**, dwelling on the slopes of Daqingshan Mountain 80 km away from Bijie City in the northeast, was built in 1821 (in the Qing Dynasty) for a headman of a Yi tribe. It is the only well-preserved Yi building in the province, which possesses the traditional architecture of the Yi people.

● Other cultural relics include cliff paintings, frescoes, stone carvings, tablets and inscriptions which are scattered all over the province. For instance, the **Unknown Inscriptions on the Red Cliff** in Guanling County.

A long time ago, Guizhou was called "Baiyue" (meaning A