

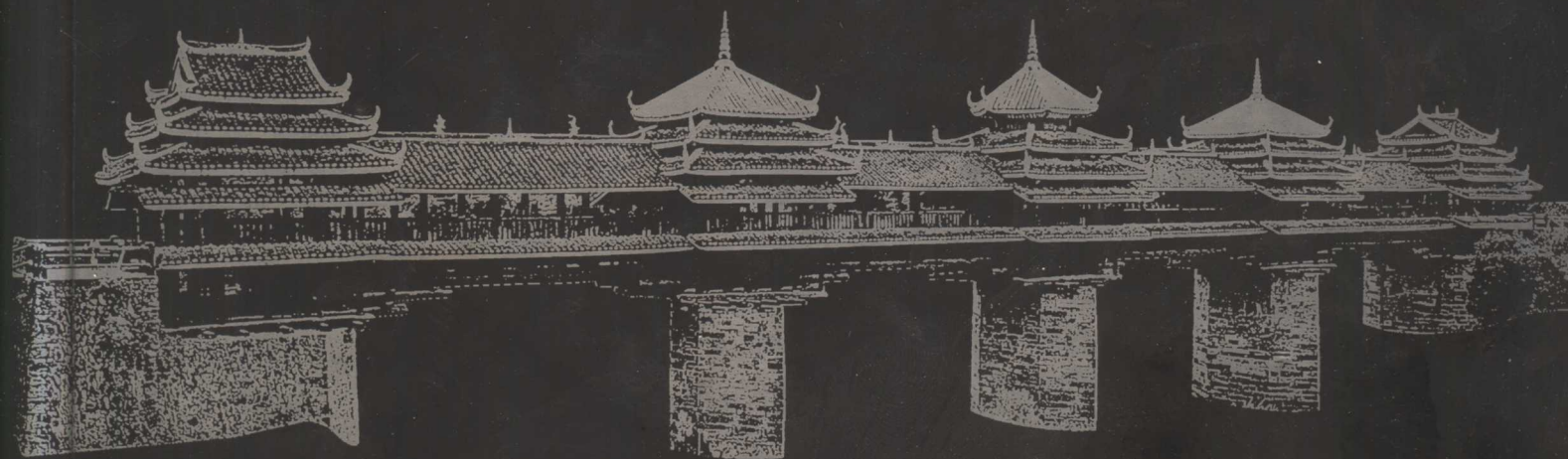
# WIND & RAIN BRIDGE

A journey among the Dong People of China and the classic Architecture of their covered Wind and Rain Bridges

中国 · 广西 · 三江  
Sanjiang · Guangxi · China

## 风雨桥

于俊海 著  
writed by Yu Junhai



中国旅游出版社  
China Travel Publishing House

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## 于俊海《风雨桥》摄影集序

于俊海同志是北方人，但却对南方少数民族地区情有独钟，特别是对侗族山寨，可以说是达到了迷恋的程度。他在三年的时间里，先后四次自费到广西三江侗族自治县及相邻的侗族地区进行采访，走过了近百个村寨，拍摄了大量的照片。现在展现在我们面前的这个集子，便是他对侗族人民及其风情习俗的眷恋和赞美。

侗族，是我国古代南方百越族群中骆越人的后裔，现有人口近三百万人，主要居住在湘、黔、桂、鄂四省（区）毗邻地区。虽然侗族在历史上只有本民族的语言而无本民族的文字，但侗族的传统文化却是灿烂辉煌的。侗族的木建筑不仅继承和发扬了古代越人“干栏”式建筑的特色，而且在工艺、造型、布局、功用等方面均具有独创，从而形成了别具一格的侗族木建筑文化。为世人所赞叹的侗族风雨桥和鼓楼，就是侗族木建筑文化的精品。侗族无伴奏多声部大歌，也以其优美的旋律和高超的演唱技艺而饮誉中外……

《风雨桥》以它深深的情感和艺术眼光，捕捉了侗族山寨中的许多画面。这些画面，全是在生活中追踪，在生活中寻觅的，因此，它显得朴实而自然；这些画面，尽管只是黑白的组合，但因为是摄影者与摄影对象情感交融后共同培育出来的颜色，因此，它显得更加凝重，更加有艺术功力。

翻阅《风雨桥》感觉到自己正置身于侗族山寨，身心融进了侗族文化的画廊。我相信各位读者也一定会有同感。

广西三江侗族自治县

县长：梁日春

二〇〇二年十月十八日

## Preface

**The Photography Album, "Wind and Rain Bridges... A journey among the Dong People of China and the classic Architecture of their covered Wind and Rain Bridges." by Yu Junhai**

Yu Junhai was born and lives in north of China, but has always shown a strong passion for the southern minorities... especially the villages of the Dong people. Over many years, he has visited the Sanjiang Dong's Autonomy County of Guangxi Province and neighboring regions numerous times and four times in three years at his own expenses. Here he visited nearly 100 villages, taking extensive photographs. In this album we can see not only his deeply held feelings, but also the strong admiration for the Dongs and their customs.

The Dong people are the descendants of Luoyue nationality, belonging to ancient Baiyue peoples, who lived in southern China. With a population of 3,000,000 the Dong people mainly inhabit the Hunan, Guizhou, Guangxi, and the Hubei Provinces of China.

Dong Nationality has its own language, but even without its own writing, its history and traditional culture is still quite magnificent. While the wood architecture was inherited and developed from the classical design called the "Handrail Style" of ancient Yue, the Dong also formed their own unique style of craftsmanship, design, layout, and functionality... which we have come to know as the "Wood-architectural Culture of the Dong."

The Wind & Rain Bridges and Drum-towers represent the pinnacle of the Dong's architectural work. In addition their cultural singing without musical accompaniment has received great honor nationally because of Dong's ability to create a charming multi-track choral rhythm that shows exceptional singing skill.

The album "Wind and Rain Bridges... A journey among the Dong People of China and the classic Architecture of their covered Wind and Rain Bridges," has captured the essence of the Dong's villages through a profound vision of emotion and artistic insight. In all, the expanse of this work is a plain and natural look into the life of the Dong People as it combines both black and white and color photography. Through this combination of styles, the photographer has shown us an artistic dignity of Dong history and an affectionate perspective of today's life.

After looking through the album "Wind and Rain Bridges... A journey among the Dong People of China and the classic Architecture of their covered Wind and Rain Bridges," I feel as if I'm standing in the cultural gallery of the Dong's villages. I'm sure all the readers will have the same feeling.

Sanjiang Dong's Autonomy County of Guangxi Province

Liang Richun

Head of the county

Oct 18, 2002

## 走进风雨桥

那一年我和朋友结伴，来到了广西三江侗族自治县。早就听说那里有座驰名中外的风雨桥。桥，哪里都有，它没有引起我的注意，当然，对侗寨、侗族人也就一无所知了。

当我走近三江，走进风雨桥，走进侗寨，走进吊脚楼，它使我震惊，那是桥吗？像是空中楼阁、像是宫殿亭廊。一群侗族妇女向我走来，手中拿着她们的绣品，展示在我的眼前，我和我的朋友们一下子全部买下，语言不通，但从她们的脸上看得出是非常高兴的。

初到三江便把我吸引了：那一座座风格各异的风雨桥它展示了侗族人的智慧，那一座座层层迭迭的鼓楼，展现了侗族人的精神风貌，那一幢幢错落有致的吊脚楼讲述了侗族人的生活。他们把自己融进大山、融进自然，创造着美好的生活。

五天来，我们驱车狂奔，过了一江又一江，穿过一寨又一寨，收获很大，但总觉得时间太短，意犹未尽，自然也就留下了很多遗憾。

又是一年，我带着那一年留下的遗憾，又来到了三江，又来到了风雨桥。这年的春节，我没有和家人一起过，同台湾的几个朋友讲好，我们去侗寨过年。这里过年和大都市不一样，初一十五总有节日的气氛和鞭炮声，已多年没有听到鞭炮声，特别地兴奋，所以每到一寨，我们也就过把瘾，痛痛快快地放它一千响的鞭炮，一边放一边给妻子打电话，问她听到没有，很是开心。春节侗家人非常活跃，走亲访友。而最使我兴奋的事，是全寨子的新娘这天回娘家，长长的队伍，抬着整个大红猪，挑着箩筐、装上酒肉，在伴娘的陪伴下送新娘回娘家。一队又一队，场面十分壮观，那是一个难忘的春节。

今天看这些照片，我还沉醉在那一年的春节里。美丽的侗寨，有一天我还会回来，风雨桥我会再一次走近你。

丁俊海  
2002.5.26





## Walking into Wind & Rain Bridge

A few years ago I visited Sanjiang, Guangxi Province, China, together with my friends just to see the Wind & Rain Bridge of the "Dong Nationality" Autonomous County... so famous both at home and abroad named. Still, with so many bridges in the world that I have never seen, I have to be honest in saying that I really had no prior idea about the Dong's Villages or the residents.

So when I stepped into my first Dong Village and set foot in the hanging pavilions, to my surprise, the Wind & Rain Bridges looked like pavilions swinging in the sky, connected by corridors like in the royal court. While I walked a group of women came round with stitch-work in their hands and exhibited them to us and without even thinking about it, my friends and I bought all of their work. Though we couldn't exchange the right words, because of the gulf, between our languages, the look of joy pouring from their faces was obvious.

When I arrived at Sanjiang the attraction to their bridges was right from the start. The different styles of the Wind & Rain Bridges spoke of the deeply held wisdom of Dongs, while the series of Drum-towers throughout the village itself took on a spiritual air and all the hanging pavilions in between, seemed to tell the unique life style of Dongs. Everywhere speaks of harmony with the mountains and nature, yet creating their own history out of the past they strive to build a better life for the future.

For some five days, we trekked over the mountains and villages of the region. And while we gain a great deal, alas we knew it wasn't anywhere near enough, so it was with a deep sense of regret that we left in such a short time. But it was the very need erase that regret that brought me back again a short time later to once more walk in Sanjiang, along the path with the Wind & Rain Bridges. It was the time of the New Year but this time I decided not to spend the festival together with my family and instead took the opportunity to spend the time in the Dong's Villages along with several friends from Taiwan.

There were so many differences in spending the New Year so far from the big cities. Here, you could hear the sound of firecrackers everywhere and feel the thick atmosphere of the New Year. It was an exciting mood... and we even managed to satisfy a craving to play firecrackers in the festival. In fact we all got so carried away, we phoned our wives just to let them taste the atmosphere of the New Year in Dong's Villages too.

During the New Year, the Dongs are very active as it's the custom to invite relatives and friends to visit. For me the most interesting part of the festival was to see all brides of the village accompanied by the matrons of honor, line up to go back the place of their birth with their bamboo baskets full of the wine, meat, fish. Watching, we became caught up in the festivities ourselves...and missed lunch, but we spent an amusing and interesting New Year.

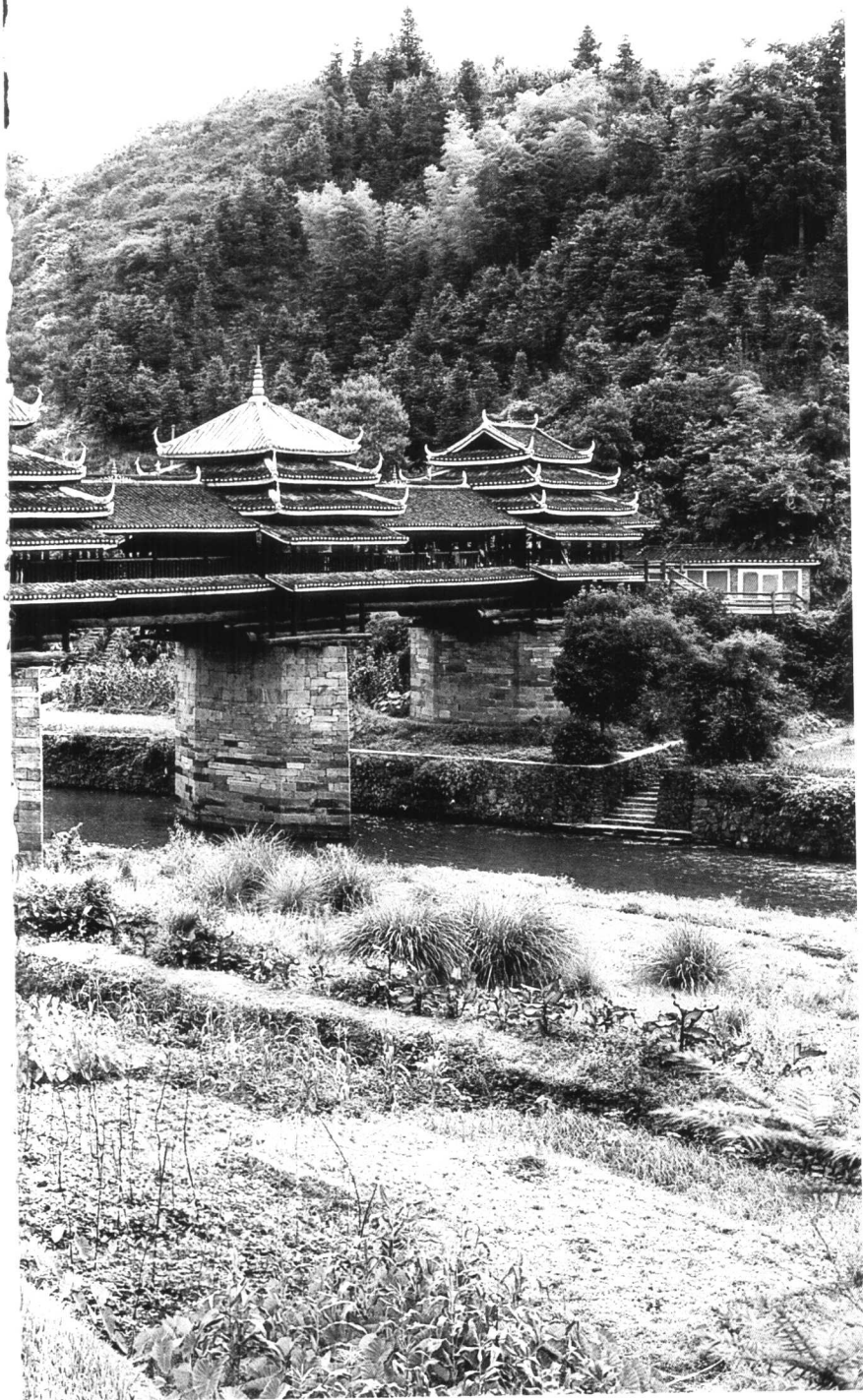
Today, when I look these photos, the scene of the New Year we spent in Dong's Villages still comes to my eyes just as vividly. Those, beautiful Dong Villages, I'm sure I will be back some day! And the Wind & Rain Bridges... I will visit you again very soon!





三江风雨桥的代表作——程阳桥

The "Chenyang Bridge" is representative work of the Wind & Rain Bridges in Sanjian Region



## 风 雨 桥

侗寨风雨桥是侗族建筑艺术上的精华,也是我国桥梁建筑的佼佼者,有“廊桥”之称,它是一种集桥、廊、亭三者为一体的独具风韵的桥梁建筑。称得上是世界桥梁建筑艺术上的瑰宝。

风雨桥的结构有三部分,下部是用长方形大块青石围砌,料石填心的墩台,桥墩为石面柱体,上下游均为锐角,以减少洪水的冲击力。中部为桥面,采用密布式悬臂托架简支梁体系,全部为木结构。上部为桥面的亭廊,采用榫卯结合的梁柱体系联成整体,亭廊的柱间设有坐凳栏杆。栏外挑出一层风雨檐,起到保护桥面又增强桥的整体美感。整座桥架置放在桥墩之上,而桥墩桥台间没有任何锚固措施,桥台、桥墩起架空的承台作用。

风雨桥,它的代表作是程阳桥。它横跨于程阳马安寨下面的林溪河上,长为77.76米,托架梁有两层,上层伸出4米,下层伸出2.5米,各以七根中径为40公分的杉木排成,竖柱立梁覆盖青瓦,桥面长廊过道宽4米,桥面有五座桥亭分布于桥墩之上,亭间有廊连接,中央为六角攒尖重檐亭,顶距桥面高7.3米,其两侧为正方形攒尖重檐亭,高7米。端亭成正方形,敬山

重檐顶，高6.5米，远远望去，五亭并列，重檐瓴联阁，层层叠叠，雄伟壮观，是侗族桥梁建筑之冠，郭沫若为该桥题字为“程阳桥”并赋诗七律一首赞美它：

艳说林溪风雨桥，桥长廿丈四寻高，  
重瓴联阁怡神巧，列砥横流入望遥，  
竹木一身坚胜铁，茶林万载茁新苗，  
何时得上三江道，学把犁锄事体劳。

建桥是地方社区的大事，因而建桥的过程，同时也就是社区整合，增加社区或地区层面的认同过程。根据看桥阿公的回忆，这座程阳桥的建筑，是由程阳、马安等八寨五十位侗族老者领头建设起来的。他们每人都先出五分田作为风险抵压。他们一面参加建设，一面管理建桥事物；发动大家捐钱，捐木，捐粮，捐工，请来最好的石匠、木匠，前后花了十二年（1916年）才建成此桥。其中凿石、备料、砌墩四年，拉木、架梁三年，竖亭、盖屋、装饰桥梁五年。建桥事业未竟，就已有两位老者故去，可是他们的儿子顶上了他们的班，继续为建桥出力。

建造这座桥，动员的范围从广西三江直至湖南通道，规模和影响都是很大的。桥建成之后，桥上镶嵌了数十块火石碑，上面刻有各个村寨捐钱、捐工者的姓名。体现了侗族人的团结和智慧。

在程阳桥，当地的侗族人有一种说法，即这座桥上通过的鬼魂最多，投胎转世也最多，因此，周围村寨的人丁也最为兴旺。基于上述原因，侗族还愿仪式上的踩桥活动，就是通过引魂投胎而求得子嗣。

每年农历的二月二为架桥节。相传侗家的祖公巴西与祖奶美易，曾因在二月二架桥而使子孙们发达了起来，于是，后代的子孙仿效，沿袭了架桥节。架桥祈嗣之俗，在侗族民间有着深厚的基础，以至于在侗族分布的一些地方，不仅村有村桥，家家有桥，甚至每个人都有各自的桥。每到大年初一，人们往往要去为自己的魂魄祭桥。

三江境内还有一座人畜分道的风雨桥——琶团桥。规格略小于程阳桥，坐落于独峒乡琶团寨旁的苗江上。桥台间距为30.4米，桥盖长50米，二台一墩，两孔三亭（建于清宣统二年，1910年）。它的特别之处是在人走的长廊边另设畜行道小桥，成为双层桥，两层高差为1.5米，人畜分道，能使人行道上清洁安全，并延长了桥的使用时间，是桥梁建筑上的独创。桥周围风光秀丽，使游人乐而忘返。

三江境内，共建有风雨桥一百八十一座，数量之多，规模之大，堪称世界之最。



程阳桥是侗寨风雨桥中的杰作，它是世界桥梁建筑的经典。

With its refined architectural heritage the "Chengyang Bridge" takes its place among world bridge designs and is one of the finest design example of the Wind & Rain Bridges of the Dong Nationality.





风雨桥很小，但它很方便。

This is only a small Wind & Rain Bridge, but is so conveniently placed to into the village from the field.

## Wind & Rain Bridge

The Wind & Rain Bridge in Dong's Villages is the pride of the Dong's architectural art and it's recognized as an outstanding work of Chinese bridge architecture. Because of its unique bridge architecture that unitizes the characteristics of bridge, a corridor and the pavilion, it is also referred to as the "Corridor Bridge." This unique design makes it thought of as a very "precious treasure" among bridge architecture of the world.

The structure of the Wind & Rain Bridge is made up of three parts. The base of the supporting stonework uses large rectangular stones, with smaller decorative stones above, while the upper part of the bridge's stonework is covered by decorative stone panels. In addition the structure of the stonework columns, form an acute angle at the front and rear... in order to reduce the impact of flood.

The middle part of the bridge forms the bridge's surface and adopts a design of thick cantilever joists and a simple shoring girder with both of these made of wood. The upper corridor of the pavilion is supported by a coupling system that has the girders linked by tenons and rivets. All the girders are fitted into the structure of bridge, without the use of any reinforcing between girder and structure itself. In the corridor there is no seating between the pillars of the "pavilions" or corridor, and the "Wind & Rain Eaves" above, spread out over the handrails.

As the Chengyang Bridge is a Wind & Rain Bridge well known all over the world... it's important to mention this example of the work when talking about the Wind & Rain Bridges. The Chengyang Bridge crosses the Linxi River at the location of the Maan Village where it has a length of 77.76m.

The timber structure of this bridge is made up of double-layer joists, with each layer formed by 7 pieces of fir that has a diameter of 70cm. The upper layer of the joists spreads out to 4m over the under-layer of joists that has a width of about 2.5m. Above, the floor of this pavilion is covered with black tiles, and the long corridor of the bridge itself has the width of 4m. On the bridge, there are five pavilions linking the corridors with the roof structure of the centre one looking like a hexagon, but the sides actually form a square. The height of the walls of the pavilions are 7m to the surface of the bridge with the peak of the roof standing at 7.3m to the surface of bridge. At each end of the bridge, two square pavilions stand by with the height of 6.5m.

From a distance, you can see the five grand pavilions side by side, with one roof peak over another. It's this bridge that see the height of the Dong's bridge architecture. In fact it's so famous that Moruo Guo named it "Chengyang

Bridge" and composed a poem for it.  
It's called the Wind & Rain Bridge of Linxi  
With 20m length and 4m height  
Wonderful designed, crafted pavilions  
Lined up side by side from a distance  
Firmer than iron, though made of wood  
Bring up the following generation year after year  
What time can I set foot on the SanJing  
And enjoy the leisure working on farm

The importance of constructing the Wind & Rain Bridge has as much to do with crossing the river as it has to do with building community togetherness and solidarity of purpose among the Dong villagers.

In the memory of the bridge-guarder, the person responsible for the bridge... the "Chenyang" Bridge was built by over 80 Dong villages working together and led by the village elders. Before the construction, commenced, each family took from their land five Fen (Chinese monetary unit) as mortgage for the venture. Together, they either participated in the bridge construction, or acted as managers of the bridge construction. They appropriated the donation of money, foodstuff and labors, as well as invited the best the stonemasons and carpenters. In all they spent 12 years in finishing the construction of the "Chenyang" bridges (completed in 1916).

In the actual building process they spent four years in chiseling the big stones, preparing materials, and laying the base stonework. Three years was needed in preparing the wood and installing the girders, while it took some five years in erecting the pavilions, constructing the houses and decorating the bridge. In all the long years it took to build the bridge, two old village workers died... but their sons replaced the vacancy left by fathers and continued the construction of the "Chenyang" Bridge.

It's recalled that in the building of the bridge connecting Sanjiang of Guangxi Province to the Hunan Province, a large village workforce joined in the building venture. And after finishing the construction, they installed ten tablets on the bridge where the names of all the villagers who made a contribution to bridge were recorded.

Among Dong Villages there's a story about "Chenyang" Bridge. It says that a great many souls have passed over this bridge seeking reincarnation in the crossing. Perhaps it's the reason that the population around the Bridge has multiplied so profoundly. Or maybe, the reason is that every year there's a tradition of walking the bridge... in the hope of to seek a new offspring.

Historically we're told that the forbearers of the Dong flourished with many offspring because the construction of the bridge was completed on the extremely favorable day of Feb 2. In subsequent years, Feb 2. was named as the Festival of "Bridge's Day." Thereafter the custom of praying for an offspring on that day began its long tradition in history. However with equal importance in their tradition the Dong Wind & Rain Bridge is also the place where villagers pray for their souls on the first day of the New Year. Just perhaps, it's the importance of these customs that has led to the many bridges in Dong region.



与骑路亭相连的风雨桥

In this example, the Wind & Rain Bridge connects to the







这是建有三座尖顶亭的风雨桥  
This example of a Wind & Rain Bridge has three peak-roofed pavilions



琶团桥是一座人畜分道的风雨桥

The "Batuan Bridge" is the Wind & Rain Bridge with separated passages of people and animals.