

BESPOKE
Travel Company

VILLAGE-HOPPING IN GUIZHOU

A SMALL GROUP ADVENTURE

April 3–8, 2022

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ABOUT THIS TRIP

Guizhou can sometimes feel like a final frontier in China – exploring the province's incredibly rugged landscapes you might feel like you've arrived on another planet entirely. Our itinerary is designed to traverse the mountainous terrain of the Qiandongnan region, home to stunning landscapes of vertiginous rice terraces and remote villages constructed almost entirely of wood by the Miao and Dong minority peoples that have lived here for centuries. There is no better part of China in which to experience genuine rural life, and the intricate traditions and crafts that still thrive there.

But things are changing quickly here, and there is far more to Guizhou than the 'lost in time' region that it is sometimes portrayed as. So in the up-and-coming capital Guiyang, we'll arrange a specialist-led tour of the city's vibrant, hyper-local food scene, taking in street snacks and one of China's coolest microbreweries. Once in the villages, we'll make use of design-led boutique homestays owned by young locals who are sensitively bringing the area up-to-date, and you might, for example, have the chance to meet the producers of handmade fabrics who are sought by Chinese designers in Shanghai and Beijing.

This is an area – and an itinerary – with one eye on the past, and one on the future!

TRIP LENGTH: 5 Nights/6 Days (April 3-8, 2022)

GUESTS: Maximum 10

PRICE: Early Bird (until March 3rd) 9,900RMB per person; 10,900RMB per person thereafter (based on double occupancy). Single supplement: 2,000RMB per person (limited availability).

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: Low-Medium (some walking involved)

INCLUDED: Accommodation & breakfast, 4 lunches, 5 dinners, guide and vehicle services, entrance tickets

NOT INCLUDED: Flights/trains to/from Guiyang, other meals, personal costs, travel insurance.

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Things in Guizhou change pretty quickly! We might need to make adjustments to the itinerary, but we'll notify you of any significant changes ahead of time.

Day 1/April 3: Arrive Guiyang (D)

Upon arrival in Guiyang you'll be met by a local guide and transferred to your hotel. This evening our specialist foodie guide will take you to dinner at one of their favourite restaurants.

Day 2/April 4: Guiyang - Kaili (B, L, D)

Transfer to Kaili to start your village visits. Visit the Miao village of Matang, with its famous batik artisans, and scenic Upper Langde.

Day 3/April 5: Kaili - Zenlei (B, L, D)

Time to get off the beaten track! The remote hilltop village of Zenlei is populated by the Shui people and offers a great taste of remote, rural Guizhou. You'll stay overnight in the village's only guesthouse.

Day 4/April 6: Zenlei - Dali Dongzhai (B, L, D)

Transfer to Dali in Rongjiang County. This tiny Dong village is beautifully preserved and great fun to explore. The area is especially well-known for handmade fabrics and we may be able to visit the studio of a local designer.

Day 5/April 7: Dali - Zhaoxing (B, L, D)

After spending the morning in Dali, transfer to Zhaoxing, the most famous of the Dong Villages. This afternoon we make the spectacular (but pretty relaxed) hike from the hilltop village of Tang'an back to our guesthouse in Zhaoxing.

Day 6/April 8: Depart Zhaoxing (B)

This morning take an optional stroll through the countryside to the tiny village of Jilun (or just hangout and explore Zhaoxing a bit more). Around midday you will transfer back to Guiyang Airport for onward flights (17:00 or later).

***B, L, D indicates on which days breakfast, lunch or dinner are included in the tour price. ***

FEATURED HOTELS

SOFITEL HUNTER GUIYANG

The city's best hotel is located in its tallest building with commanding views over the river, and features all the mod cons you would expect including a great pool and a top-notch breakfast.



GRAND METROPARK KAILI

This is a local 4-star resort that is the best option in this small city. Large, comfortable rooms make it a good base from which to explore the nearby villages that surround Kaili.



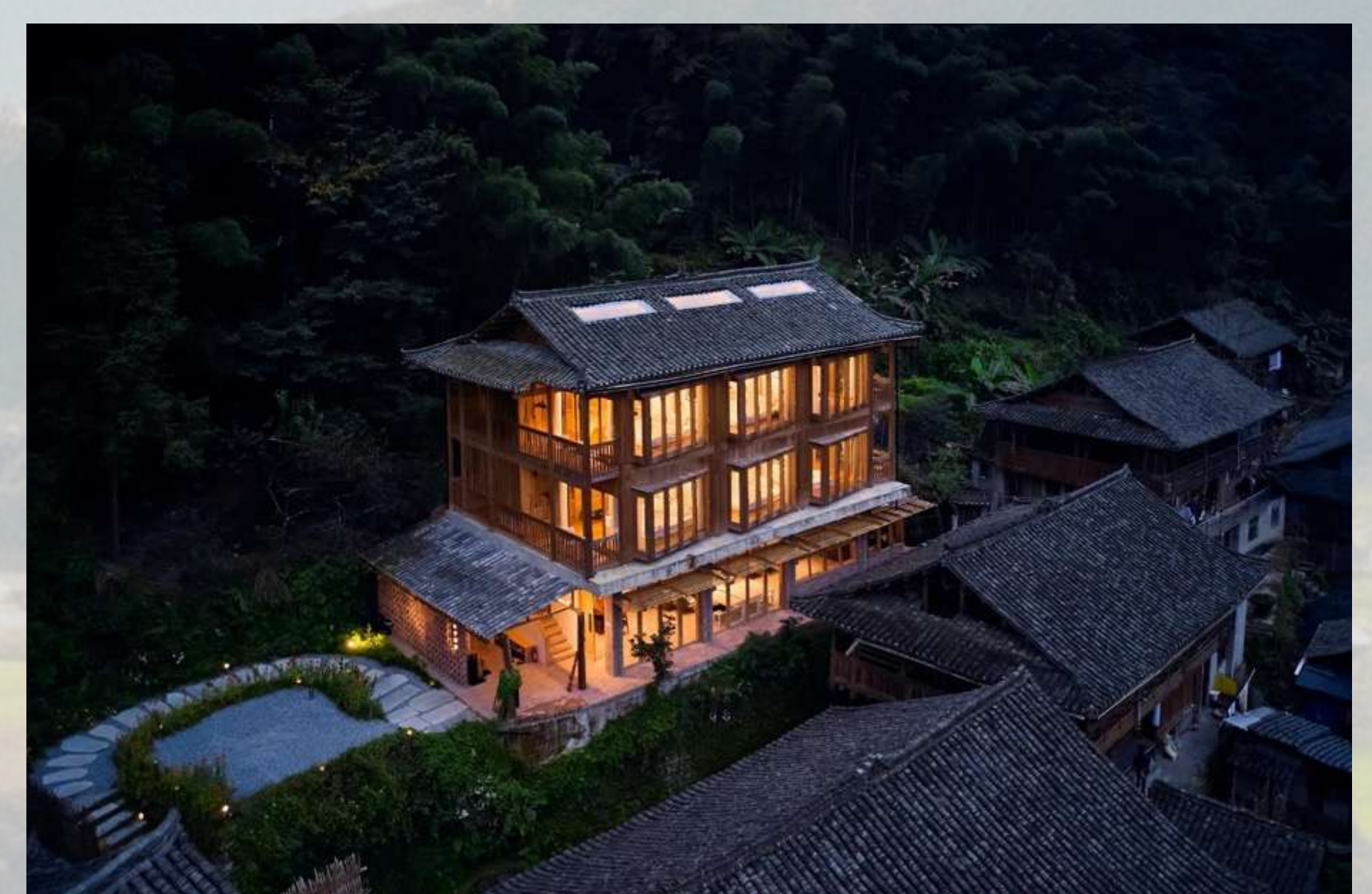
MEITU FENGSHU INN ZENLEI

This cosy homestay has just a handful of rooms in a traditional wooden house surrounded by rice fields and is truly somewhere to get away from it all in one of the few *Shui* minority villages in Guizhou.



THE WELL HOUSE DALI

This cool little boutique hotel opened in 2020 and was designed by a Beijing architect with the aim of using traditional local materials to create a contemporary style. The only hotel in this tiny village has just eight rooms.



INDIGO LODGE ZHAOXING

This excellent guesthouse is the best of the bunch in the bustling town of Zhaoxing. Run by a friendly team of villagers, the rooms have plenty of flavour, making use of fabrics sourced from local artisans.





Sunday, April 3

Arrive in Guiyang

Arrive at Guiyang Airport on one of the recommended flights from Shanghai or Beijing.

- From Shanghai: FM9457 (12:00-14:40)
- From Beijing: CA4162 (11:45-15:15)

Your Bespoke Guide will meet you in the Arrivals Hall of Guiyang Airport and you will be transported to the Sofitel in the heart of Guiyang where you can check in and relax.

Other Flights

You are welcome to take other flights to Guiyang. In this case we will ask you to take a taxi directly from the airport to the hotel where you can check in. This usually takes approximately 40 minutes and costs around 75 RMB. Private arrival transfers can be arranged for 500 RMB if you would prefer (1–4 guests). In order to join this evening's food tour (which begins at 6pm), we recommend that you take a flight arriving at 3pm or earlier.



Sunday, April 3 (Cont'd)

Evening: Guiyang Food Tour Bespoke Signature Experience

Guiyang may not be the ultimate sightseeing city, but at night it comes alive and boasts what we reckon might just be one of the most vibrant food scenes anywhere in China. Guizhou is famous for big, bold flavors that make use of hyper-local ingredients to create a unique sour and spicy taste.

So, to kick off the tour we've asked our specialist foodie guide to show you around. You'll head to a lively street food area to snack away before sitting down at a restaurant to sample a hand-picked menu of local classics, with an explanation from your guide about what makes the food in this region so special. Guiyang is also a serious beer town, so we'll finish off the evening with a pint in one of the best microbreweries. Those who want to further explore the city's impressive nightlife scene will be provided with ample suggestions!



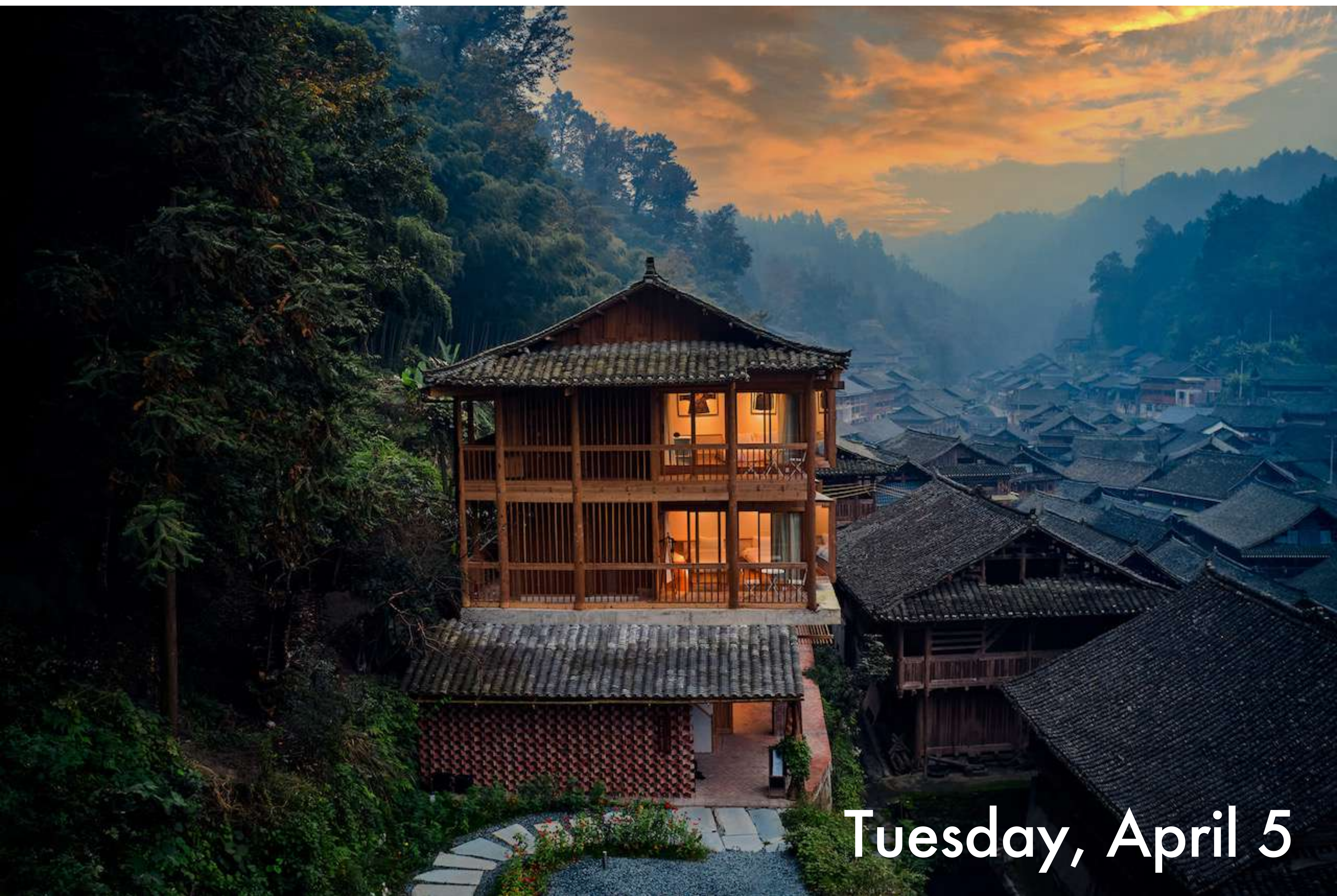
Monday, April 4

Guiyang – Kaili

This morning we depart Guiyang and travel to Kaili with our local guide by vehicle (approx. 2.5 hours). Whilst this small city might not be the most charming in China, it's the center of the Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Region and serves as an important hub for these minority peoples, making it a useful base to begin our village hopping.

We start with a trip to Matang, home to talented Gejia batik artists who create beautiful designs using beeswax that is painstakingly applied to the fabric's intricate patterns before it is dyed. We'll also venture further afield to Upper Langde. This area has seen some tourist development, but it's a great starting point from which to understand Miao architecture and culture in more depth, and the steep hills on either side can be climbed for excellent photo opportunities.

We'll overnight in Kaili. The city has a good range of restaurants and is the birthplace of Guizhou's signature *suantang* ('sour soup') dishes.



Tuesday, April 5

Kaili - Zenlei

It's time to head seriously off the beaten track. Our destination? The hilltop village of Zenlei (approx. 2.5 hours), home to *Shui* people. One of China's smaller and lesser-known nationality groups, the *Shui* ('water') people are known for living close to rivers and for their elaborate headwear. They also have their own unique writing script that contains just 400 characters.

This afternoon, spend time exploring the village surrounds. This is a relatively remote area with no restaurants, so meals can be taken in the guesthouse or, on occasion, in local homes.



Wednesday, April 6

Zenlei – Dali Dongzhai

Further explore Zenlei this morning. The viewing platform above the hotel offers all kinds of extraordinary views over the terraced fields here and plenty of paths offer opportunities for more walking.

We'll arrive in the tiny village of Dali Dongzhai by early afternoon. This is a classic *Dong* village, situated deep in a valley, with old wooden homes that must be some of the best preserved in Guizhou. It's also well known for traditional fabric production, and, depending on the time of year, you might see villagers weaving, dyeing or hammering bright indigo cloth. Dali is home to the small studio of a local designer who uses the fabric in her work, as well as several tailors that it might be possible to visit.

You'll spend the night in the only accommodation around – a stylish little guesthouse with views over the village rooftops. This is also the only place to eat in the village and offers tasty local dishes as well as (made to order) specialty *Dong* dishes.



Dali Dongzhai – Zhaoxing

Early risers – especially those that enjoy photography – should consider a morning stroll around the village for the best light and plenty of local action. Located in a deep valley, Dali offers excellent views over the rooftops.

This afternoon, transfer to Zhaoxing (2 hours). This is the largest and most famous of the Dong villages in Guizhou, and whilst it's pretty firmly on the tourist trail, it does offer the chance to snap up some souvenirs, as well as having loads of good eating opportunities.

A highlight of the visit here is short trip to the hilltop hamlet of Tang'an, which offers spectacular views over the surrounding rice terraces. From here we'll hike back down to our guesthouse in Zhaoxing, passing small villages and farmers working the fields.



Friday, April 8

Morning

Those that wish to can join our Local Guide for a short hike through the countryside to the village of Jilun, 2 kilometers away. Otherwise, feel free to hang out in Zhaoxing, as in most local villages, the morning is the liveliest time of the day here and the best chance to enjoy local scenes.

Depart Zhaoxing

In the late morning you will be transferred back to Guiyang Airport (4 hours) in time for flights home. We ask you to book a flight from 17:00 or later.

*It's also possible to take a train from Zhaoxing (Congjiang Station) to Guilin or other areas. In this case we'll ask you to book tickets directly. The hotel can arrange local taxis to take you to the station (approx. 30 minutes drive).

NOTES ON THIS TRIP

Booking

To book this trip please send an email to info@bespoketravelcompany.com and we'll send you a reservation form and payment instructions. We require a 50% deposit to book, followed by final payment two weeks before the tour starts.

What's Included

Accommodation (5 nights, including breakfast), most meals (5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners), local guide and vehicle services as outlined, entrance tickets and activities listed in the itinerary.

What's Not Included

Flights/trains to/from Guiyang, other meals, personal costs, travel insurance.

Accommodation

This trip makes use of a variety of hotels, from international 5 star through to more standard Chinese hotels and local guesthouses. We've chosen each carefully, based on its location and character. Do note that at some hotels, facilities will be more basic. At some hotels, the number of rooms is limited so your preference of room type may not always be available, however we'll do our best to arrange these in line with requests.

Health Restrictions

As you know, travel is a bit more complicated than usual! Guizhou is currently open for travel. If you are coming from a city that has mid/high risk zones you may need to take a Covid test before you travel. We will keep you updated as the trip approaches. We have a specific cancellation policy related to Covid which is outlined in our terms and conditions.

Flights

We ask you to book your own flights to and from Guiyang Longdongbao Airport (KWE). We suggest booking refundable flights should the tour be cancelled or postponed.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Bespoke Travel Company Ltd. does not own or operate any entity which is to provide goods or services. It purchases transportation, restaurant, ground handling and other services from various independent suppliers and individuals. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result Bespoke Travel Company Ltd. is not liable for any negligent or willful act of any such person or entity or of any third person. Similarly, it is Bespoke Travel Company Ltd.'s policy that no fees for our services should be paid directly to third party suppliers by the customer. Bespoke Travel Company Ltd. is not liable for any cash misplaced or misappropriated by any third party.

In the event of illness or other unforeseen circumstances on the part of the third party supplier resulting in non-provision of services, Bespoke Travel Company Ltd. will endeavour to find a similar replacement, or should a suitable replacement not be available, all monies paid for the service shall be refunded to the customer.

In addition and without limitation, Bespoke Travel Company Ltd. is not responsible for any injury, financial or physical loss, death, inconvenience, delay or damage to personal property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from but not limited to acts of god or force majeure, illness, disease, acts of war, civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, animals, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, overbooking or downgrading of services, food poisoning, mechanical or other failure of any means of transportation or for failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time. Similarly, there are many inherent risks in tours such as great wall hikes, which can lead to illness, injury, or even death. These risks are increased by the fact that trips take place in remote locations, away from immediate medical facilities. Passenger assumes all such risks associated with participating in any such tour.

Insurance and Safety: Each guest of Bespoke Travel Company Ltd. should obtain full insurance coverage for accident, loss or injury during any tour undertaken. During the tour, the tourist assumes all risks related to participation of the tour. Bespoke Travel Company Ltd. is not liable to any guest for any direct, indirect or consequential damages.

Amendments: Bespoke Travel Company Ltd. will endeavour to assist if the customer requests any date/time changes more than 24 hours prior to the date of service. Changes are subject to availability of suppliers and are free of charge provided any additional fees or charges arising from the amendment are payable by the customer. Amendments to the itinerary, other than date/time changes, will be billed at Bespoke Travel Company Ltd.'s standard Trip Customisation rate of 800RMB/hour, except in the case of last minute bookings and changes (see above).

Overdue Payments: Payments that are more than 2 weeks overdue will incur an additional late payment fee amounting to 10% of the total invoiced amount each week until the invoice is paid in full.

Covid-19 Group Tour Cancellation Policy: Due to Covid-19, Bespoke Travel Company Ltd. recognises that plans may change unexpectedly. In the event of an outbreak in the region you are traveling from (e.g. Beijing/Shanghai), you may be required to provide a negative nucleic acid test at your own expense in order to travel / be accepted at the group's chosen hotel. In the event that the hotel refuses to accept foreign and/or Chinese guests even with a negative test, the tour will be cancelled and you will be refunded according to the Covid-19 Sudden Outbreak Cancellation Policy laid out below.

If the region (not province) we are traveling to is deemed medium or high risk by the Chinese government, and we are subsequently no longer able to visit the sights/hotels included in the itinerary, the trip will be cancelled and the Covid-19 Sudden Outbreak Cancellation Policy will also apply. However, in the event that the region we are traveling to is deemed low risk by the authorities, and the destination hotels included in the itinerary are still accepting both foreign and Chinese guests, the trip will go ahead and the standard Group Tour Cancellation Policy will apply. Please note that if you choose not to travel, not to take a Covid test or are advised not to by your company/organisation less than 28 days before the tour, we will not be able to issue a full refund. The customer must give Bespoke Travel Company Ltd. notice of any cancellation in writing. The following charges are payable by the customer in accordance with the number of days prior to the service date notice is received by Bespoke Travel Company Ltd.

Sudden Outbreak Cancellation Policy

From booking to tour date

Percentage payable to Bespoke

0%

Standard Group Tour Cancellation Policy

From booking to 28 days before

50%

27-14 days before the tour

80%

14 days or less before the tour

100%

Governing Law & Dispute Resolution: These terms and conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of China. Any disputes arising out of or in connection with these terms and conditions shall be resolved through consultations. If the consultations do not lead to an agreement within thirty (30) days of the commencement of consultations, any party has the right to submit the dispute exclusively to the Arbitration Center. The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with China's administered arbitration rules in force when the notice of arbitration is submitted in accordance with these rules. The seat or legal place of arbitration shall be in China. The arbitration award shall be final and binding. The parties agree to be bound thereby and to act accordingly. The parties hereby waive any right of appeal on the merits and/or any point of law.

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