



Pays Miao

Miao Land – 融水县苗缘农村观光服务部

Stays 2015-2016

The Miao Mountains

Located at the border of the Guangxi and Guizhou provinces, the Miao Mountains are exclusively populated by the Miao, Yao and Dong ethnic minorities. Their respective cultures, very different from that of the Chinese Han majority (92% of the Chinese population), remain well alive. The stays, organized by the rural tourism agency *Pays Miao* (*Miao Land*, 融水县苗缘农村观光服务部), give a unique opportunity to discover these ethnic minorities hardly exposed to tourism.

In the heart of Pays Miao

It is in Danian, a small rural town situated in the heart of the mountains, that Pays Miao welcomes you. The team invites you to immerse yourself in a world on the fringe of the rest of China, where old traditions are still present and their long-established way of life relatively unchanged.

In the intimacy of the ethnos

The hikes alongside the rice paddies allow an insight into the work and life of Miao farmers. They invite you to their home as friends. Depending on the season, you can take part in various festivities, watch the planting or harvest of the rice crop, or the creation of handicrafts: embroidery, weaving, dyeing, basketry, etc. You will live for some days as close as possible to the Miao, Yao or Dong people, in their daily lives, and can be assured of a warm and welcoming interaction.



About *Pays Miao*...

Françoise Grenot-Wang

Pays Miao agency was created and run by Françoise Grenot-Wang.

From 1984 to 1994, she guided tourist groups in China. In 1991, she founded the non-profit organization *Couleurs de Chine (Colours of China)*. In 1998, sponsoring the education of girls from ethnic minorities became its priority.

In December 2008, Françoise Grenot-Wang tragically died when her house burnt down. From then on, *Pays Miao* has been managed by the team that used to work with her. In 2013, *Pays Miao* was registered as a rural tourism agency in the Rongshui County (Guangxi)

Françoise Grenot-Wang recounts her experience through two books (in French):

Au coeur de la Chine : une Française en Pays Miao (Ed. Albin Michel, 2007), an account of her early years in the region and the events that led her to settle there, despite obstacles. She also depicts the customs of the Miao to whom she dedicated her life.

Chine du Sud : la mosaïque des Minorités (Ed. Indes savantes, 2005). This encyclopaedia of thirty ethnic minorities in southern China is the result of extensive researches: translations of ethnology works and exploration of minorities' areas.

She was also co-author of the **Guide Bleu du Sud-Ouest de la Chine** (Ed. Hachette, 2000).

Finally, in 2008, Françoise Grenot-Wang started a blog about the daily life of ethnic minorities in the region of Danian: the fifty texts from this blog, about work, family, friendship, beliefs, etc. were collected, edited and published by Hervé Deguine (**Dans la Chine des Miao**, Hervé Deguine, Bonaventure Editions). They are also available on the website www.couleursdechine.org



During your stay

Reception

You will be welcomed with a private car at the agreed place (for example Guilin, 7 hours and 300 km away). You will stay in comfortable accommodation. From there, you will hike every day to the villages, some of them including a stay overnight with local people in their own home.

Accommodation Pays Miao's team

Pays Miao will welcome you in “downtown Danian” in an apartment with five bedrooms and two shared bathrooms.

Pays Miao's team

Pays Miao's staff counts five people : *Mignon*, Logistics Manager ; *Liang Siji*, experienced driver ; one guide-interpreter (only in English) ; and last but not least, the two “ayis” *Neilian* and *Neiyong* who look after the house, and cook Continental breakfast (tea, coffee and pancakes) and delicious Chinese food for the other meals.

A friendly atmosphere

Visitors come to the local populations with a spirit of solidarity and respect for their customs. Danian township is quite remote from large cities and though we can lack some ingredients of modern comfort, your stay will be very enjoyable.

Programme suggestion

- D1** Welcome at the airport and transport to Danian (meal on the road).
- D2** Hike to Yala and Xiangtang Miao villages with their beautiful rice paddy sceneries.
Discovery of the farmers' activities (depending on the season: ploughing, sowing and planting, harvesting crops, weaving, fabric dyeing and hammering).
- D3** Walk to the Dong village of Guihe or Muye. Meeting with locals under the Drum Tower, architectural symbol of Dong culture.
- D4** Visit of the Yao village Qiuka, its school; traditional bath with medicinal plants and night at a local's house.
- D5** Return to Danian. Free afternoon or walk in the rice paddies.
- D6** Excursion by car to contemplate Longpei's splendid rice paddies.
- D7** Departure to the agreed place, in the morning, by car (meal on the road).

Warning: it is only an example. The actual programme will be established upon arrival according to weather forecasts, roads conditions and location of sponsored children to visit.



To the pace of seasons...

| Periods | Activities |
|---------------------------------|--|
| January-February | Lusheng festivals Chinese New Year and other celebrations |
| March | Preparation of the rice paddies and manure transport |
| End of March-beginning of April | Sowing of ordinary rice |
| April | San Yue San – lunar calendar third day third month celebration |
| End of April-beginning of May | Sowing of glutinous rice |
| Mid-May | Ploughing with cattle |
| End of May | Planting of ordinary and glutinous rice |
| Until mid-June | Water rice paddies |
| From mid to end of June | Green rice paddies |
| End of August | Sailing with sampan and swimming in rivers |
| Beginning of September | Start of the school year |
| Beginning to mid-September | Indigo fabric dyeing Harvesting ordinary rice |
| End of September to October | Harvesting glutinous rice |
| End of October | Upland rice harvest Making “Double Nine” rice wine |
| November | Weaving in villages “Baba” pancakes made with new rice |
| End of November and December | Preparations for the end-of-year celebrations |

Note: Some of these activities depend on the lunar calendar and may vary from year to year



Practical information

● Before your departure

Registration

Once you have confirmed the dates and names of participants, you will receive a confirmation of your reservation by e-mail. This document will be needed for your visa application.

Your reservation will be effective only upon receipt by *Pays Miao* of a scan of your passport, your visa and registration form duly completed and signed.

REFERENCES TO PROVIDE FOR YOUR VISA APPLICATION

Pays Miao Agency - Mr Gun Mingrong
Zip Code : 545316
Danian Township
Rongshui County, Guangxi Province
Tel : +86 772 593 8028
paysmiao@hotmail.com

邮政编码 : 545316
广西省融水县大年乡苗缘农村观光服务部
滚明荣
中国 CHINE
电话 : +86 772 593 8028
paysmiao@hotmail.com

POLICE

Bring with you a photocopy of your passport and visa for your registration with the police.

INSURANCE

Pays Miao Agency undertakes the responsibility of a smooth journey, but each participant must take into account that he/she comes at his/her own risk and must subscribe for the necessary insurance, including repatriation insurance.

Proof of your repatriation cover will be requested upon arrival and the sworn statement declaration stated on the registration form, has to be signed.

LEGAL LIABILITY

Pays Miao Agency organizes stays as a legal rural tourism agency registered with the Rongshui district (Guangxi)

Couleurs de Chine (Colours of China) is not involved in any way in the organization of these stays as this type of activity is not permitted by its by-laws.

VACCINATION

WHO does not recommend any particular vaccination for the region. However, it is advised to protect yourself against mosquito bites. For more information on health conditions, please visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website.

Electricity

220V, US and EU standard compatible.
There may be power cuts by stormy weather

Internet, Wi-Fi

Pays Miao offers Wi-Fi access and internet connection, depending on public network availability.

Equipment to take with you

Your usual medication (there's no pharmacy in Danian)
Hiking shoes (you can buy cleats sneakers in Danian for 20 ¥)
Mosquito repellent
Electric torch
Set of batteries
Sleeping sheet and/or bag in case of overnight village stay
Presents (please see below)

A little more...

Food? You can bring energizing bars to eat while waiting for the occasionally late meals in the villages and food you cannot do without.

Do not hesitate to bring one or two packs of ground coffee and/or marmalade; it is always nice to have it for breakfast.

Books? The library is still in the making; do not hesitate to leave books or magazines that you no longer want.

Weather forecasts for your stay

You can visit www.accuweather.com website (ask for: "Danian, China").



Practical information

• On site

Transportation

Our driver can pick you up and bring you back to **Liuzhou, Guilin, or Yangshuo**. Considering the journey duration, he will fetch you at the agreed places in the morning and drive you back in the afternoon. If your schedule does not fit, thank you for planning a hotel night in your arrival or departure town.

If you are coming from Guizhou (from the North), we can also meet you at Fulu (more precisely in Pingxiao), please consult us.

The bravest in search of adventure can also take the bus.

The speed train is now available and the driver can pick you at Sanjiang or Congjiang.

Hiking

This depends on the participants' physical condition and interest (meeting sponsored children, discovering minorities, taking part in local celebrations). Some villages are 30 minutes away from Dalian by foot; others are 3 or 4 hours away. Some can be reached by car or boat.

If the village is too remote, the participants spend the night at a local's home.

The hikes to the villages are accessible to everyone in good shape, though they require efforts: walking on craggy paths and adapting to rustic comfort conditions of nights in the villages. However, "smoother" stays can be organized on demand for those who might not want to walk. The hikes alongside the rice paddies allow an insight into the work and life of Miao farmers. They'll invite you to their homes as friends.

Expenses

Although the cost of the stay includes all services (reception, accommodations, meals, transport and additional tourist support services), you might want to bring some cash to help a family in difficulty or buy some handicrafts. Of course, this is not compulsory, but it is better to plan for it in case of love at first sight!

Presents

In Danian, you can buy backpacks, exercise books, pens, and hairclips for the girls. You can also bring some balloons, as the kids love them.

Miao women appreciate sewing kits, embroidery thread, or possibly fabric to make clothes. Grandmothers always ask for magnifying glasses (+3 or +4) in order to continue embroidering despite their declining eyesight. Teachers welcome Chinese books to enrich the school library.

.We prefer not to let visitors distribute themselves the presents and prefer to give them to local authorities (such as small medical dispensary) which can manage themselves the distribution, as they know more than us the needs or our team will give them to the NGO Couleurs de Chine which will hand them out in more distant places where less visitors go.

For your sponsored child, you can bring cotton cloth, books in Chinese, school equipment, drawing paper, and coloured markers. You can also bring with you some pictures of your family. The villagers are always curious to know you and happy to hang your picture on the family picture board in their houses.

You can also ask the NGO Couleurs de Chine to prepare a parcel for your sponsored student. You will need to contact your delegation before departure. In Danian you can also buy clothes or bags.

Once again, everything is optional.

Propriety

The villagers are very glad to welcome you into their homes and share their intimacy. Please respect their traditions and rules of propriety by asking permission before taking pictures and avoiding to get into rooms if not invited beforehand, etc.

PAYMENT CONDITIONS

Pays Miao services are to be paid in cash in Danian in yuan (RMB).

There is no bank in Danian: therefore, you might foresee enough cash to pay for your stay, transportation and additional expenses. Guilin Airport offers currency exchange services (EUR and USD) between 9:00 and 17:00. There is also a cash dispenser accepting foreign credit cards. For visitors arriving in Liuzhou, you have to bring with you the expected amount of your expenses in cash.

Please contact us for specific situations.



Price list

The prices below distinguish peak and off season and are calculated per one night and one person. The junior price remains unchanged whatever the season.

| | Adult | Junior (14 and less) |
|--|-------|-------------------------|
| Peak season - from January 15 th to May 31 st - from July 15 th to October 31 st | 400 ¥ | 350 ¥ |
| Off season - from November 1 st to January 14 th - from June 1 st to July 14 th | 350 ¥ | 350 ¥ |

This price includes all services provided by Pays Miao, among which: accommodation, meals, drinks (water, tea, coffee, beer, soft drinks, except consumption in external establishments), , internet access (if available), accompanying in villages, local transportations carried out under the frame of the program and an interpreter-guide. Unused benefits are not reimbursed. **For long-term stays or group prices, please consult us.**

This price does not include: consumptions in external establishments, personal expenses and transportations from and to airports (please see below).

Should a tip be left? this is not mandatory. But if you are satisfied with the work and the reception of the team, tips are welcomed. How much? between 100RMB to 300RMB per person for all your stay.

Transportations from and to airports and railway stations

Rates below indicate the price of a one-way trip per person regardless of his/her age. Meals during the trip are included. For the return journey, proceed by addition. In general, arrival at Danian occurs in the late afternoon, the departure of Danian in early morning. The first night to Danian is billed as described above, regardless of the time of arrival in Danian.

To note, the high speed train is now available in our area. It is a very easy and quick way to take the train from Guilin/Guangzhou or other place to Congjiang (at 1:30 approximately from Danian) or Sanjiang (at 2:00/ 2:30 from Danian). Prefer this economic and fast solution.

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Liuzhou | 500 RMB |
| Guilin | 550 RMB |
| Yangshuo | 650 RMB |
| Fulu | 50 RMB |
| Sanjiang | 250 RMB |
| Congjiang | 200 RMB |
| Other | Consult us |

Example (for one adult):

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Guilin-Danian: | 550 RMB |
| First night: | 400 RMB |
| Following nights | 400 RMB/night |
| Danian-Guilin | 550 RMB |

Total (2 trips and 5 nights):

$$550 + (5 \times 400) + 550 = 3,100 \text{ RMB}$$



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Please contact us for specific situations.

Contact us

To get further information, please consult the Pays Miao website: www.paysmiao.com

Or contact us in English, French or Chinese, preferably by e-mail:

| | |
|--|---|
| Pays Miao Agency - Mr Gun Mingrong Zip Code: 545316 Danian Township Rongshui County, Guangxi Province Tel: +86 772 593 8028 Mobile: +86 147 9387 0101 paysmiao@hotmail.com | 邮政编码 : 545316 广西省融水县大年乡苗缘农村观光服务部 滚明荣 中国 CHINE 电话 : +86 772 593 8028 手机 : +86 147 9387 0101 paysmiao@hotmail.com |
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Individual enrolment form

To return filled and signed to: **paysmiao@hotmail.com**

Please, one form for each subscriber

Family name: _____ Given name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Nationality: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip code: _____

Province/state: _____ Country: _____

E-mail: _____

Dates of stay (dd/mm/yyyy): from ____/____/____ to ____/____/____

Would you like us to pick you up? YES NO

Where shall we pick you up upon arrival?

| | Airport | | | Other (hotel, station, etc.) |
|----------|-----------|------|------|------------------------------|
| | Flight N° | Time | From | Name and address |
| Guilin | | | | |
| Liuzhou | | | | |
| Yangshuo | | | | |
| Other | | | | |

Where shall we take you back for departure?

| | Airport | | | Other (hotel, station, etc.) |
|----------|-----------|------|------|------------------------------|
| | Flight N° | Time | From | Name and address |
| Guilin | | | | |
| Liuzhou | | | | |
| Yangshuo | | | | |
| Other | | | | |

If you are sponsoring a child from *Couleurs de Chine*, please specify her/his reference: _____

Contact name and phone number in case of emergency: _____

I, the undersigned, _____ hereby certify that I acknowledge the risks of such a trip.
I promise not to prosecute *Pays Miao* in case of loss, theft or accident.

I declare to have in my possession a medical repatriation insurance:

Name of the insurance company: _____

Telephone number of insurance company: _____

Insurance policy number: _____

In _____ date (dd/mm/aaaa) ____/____/____ Signature: _____