



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

China

China – CHN36374 – Guizhou Province –
Guiyang City – Ethnic Miao minority –
Tobacco farming – Karst caves – Local
Church
14 April 2010

1. Guiyang City, Guizhou Province

- 1.1. Please provide a general description of Guiyang and the city's population.
- 1.2. What are the distinctive landmarks of the city of Guiyang?

Guiyang (贵阳) is the capital city of Guizhou Province (贵州) in south west China and is over 400 years old. The modern city is a mix of historic architecture and a modern business centre.¹ The city is built on the Nanming River which runs through the centre of the city. Maps of Guiyang city and selected landmarks are at Attachment 12.

The population of Guiyang city is between approximately 1.2 million² and 3.5 million people.³ The urban and rural subdivisions may explain the large variation found in sources on population numbers. In 2006, Guiyang city was divided into several areas, including 6 urban districts, one city, three counties, 50 townships (including 19 ethnic townships) and 1118 administrative villages.⁴

¹ Flickr Hive Mind, 'Guiyang', undated,

<http://fiveprime.org/hivemind/Tags/guiyang.%E8%B4%B5%E5%B7%9E>, - Accessed 16 April 2010, Attachment 4

² Harper, D., et al., *China*, Lonely Planet Publications, May 2009, pp. 660.

³ Zhou Yuan, Mayor of Guiyang, 'A Welcome Speech by the Mayor', 11 April 2009

<http://en.gygov.gov.cn/engygov/4038040015891070976/20091104/217117.html> - undated, Accessed 9 April 2010, Attachment 2

⁴ The People's Government of Guiyang Municipality, "In 2006, Guiyang was divided into 6 urban districts, one city, 3 counties, 1 high-tech industry development zone, 50 townships (including 19 ethnic townships), 30 towns, 38 subdistrict offices, 3 villagers committees, 1118 administrative villages and 437 neighbourhood committees." <http://en.gygov.gov.cn/engygov/4036633753404047360/20090812/201012.html> undated - Accessed 9 April 2010, Attachment 3



- i. **Mao Statue**, one of China's largest Mao statues is at Remin Square in the centre of Guiyang:



- ii. **Hongfeng Lake Scenic Area** about 32 km west of Guiyang comprises the North Lake, the South Lake, the Rear Lake and the 'minority ethnic villages'. The South Lake is noted for its caves. Minority villages around the Hongfeng Lake area include Miao, Dong and Bouyei.⁶
- iii. The Zen Buddhist **Hongfu Temple and monastery**⁷ are situated in Qianling Park at the top of Qianling Shan, 1.5km from the centre of Guiyang City.⁸ The eight scenic locations within the park include the Kylin Cave. There are more than 200 caves in Qianling Park.⁹

⁵ Easy Tour China, 'Guiyang Photos', <http://www.easytourchina.com/guiyang/photos.htm>, - Accessed 16 April 2010, Attachment 5.

⁶ TravelChinaGuide.com, www.travelchinaguide.com/attraction/guizhou/guiyang/hongfeng_lake.htm - undated, - Accessed 7 April 2010, Attachment 6

⁷ YesChinaTour, 2010, <http://yeschinatour.com/china-guides/china-attractions/qianling-park-guiyang/>, Accessed 29 March 2010, Attachment 7.

⁸ Harper, D., et al., *China*, Lonely Planet Publications, May 2009, pg 662. A map is at Attachment 14

⁹ YesChinaTour, 2010, <http://yeschinatour.com/china-guides/china-attractions/qianling-park-guiyang/>, 3 April, Accessed 7 April 2010, Attachment 7



- iii. **The Jiaxui Pavillion** (or Jiaxui Tower) has become a symbol of Guiyang. It was built on the base of a huge stone on Nanming Lake, which is located to the south of Guiyang city.¹⁰



- iv. **Tianhe Pool Scenic Area** contains waterfalls, springs, pools, unusual caves, and rock formations. The Tianhe Pool is about 23 km from the southwest suburbs of Guiyang. From Guiyang city, you can get to the Tianhe Pool Scenic Area by public bus. The Tianhe Pool contains a ‘Water Cave’ and a ‘Drought Cave’ and the tourist website, *Travel China Guide* notes that, “caves and verdant vegetation can be seen everywhere... Just in front of these two caves is a deep pool surrounded by crags... Right by the exit of the Drought Cave is a Miao... village.”¹¹

The Chinese tourism website, *Toursonline.cn* notes that “the most interesting scenic spot in [Guiyang] city is the Southern Cave, or Underground Park as the locals call it. About half a mile in length, the cave contains spectacular stalactites and stalagmites.”¹²

1.3. What is the distance between Guiyang and Fuqing City?

1.4. How would you travel between the two cities?

¹⁰ YesChinaTour, <http://yeschinatour.com/china-guides/china-attractions/jiaxiu-tower-guiyang/> - Accessed 29 March 2010, Attachment 8

¹¹ TravelChinaGuide, undated, <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/attraction/guizhou/guiyang/tianhe-pool-area.htm> - Accessed 16 April 2010, Attachment 9

¹² Guilin China Travel Service, undated, <http://toursonline.cn/activities/guiyang.asp> - Accessed 13 April 2010, Attachment 10

Travel between the two cities is possible by rail, road and air. According to Google Maps, the driving distance from Guiyang to Fuqing is between 1, 716km and 2, 144km by car, route dependent.¹³

Rail: Guiyang-Liuzhou, Chongqing-Guiyang, Zhuzhou-Guiding, Guiyang-Kunming and Nanning-Kunming are the main five railway stems in this region, which run through Guizhou, and are joined by many other branch lines and leased lines.

Road: Express highways connect Guiyang with Huangguoshu, Zunyi and Duyun.¹⁴

Air: flights connect Guiyang with Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and over 30 other cities in China. It was recently possible to fly from Guiyang to Fuzhou for between \$400 and \$1000AUD.¹⁵

2. The Miao peoples of Guizhou

2.1. What percentage of the population in Guiyang is of Miao ethnicity?

2.2. Where do the Miao peoples live?

2.2.1. Do all the Miao people live in the one area/village?

2.2.2. Are there many Miao villages around Guiyang?

2.2.3. Is there a village called Miao?

In her article, 'The Miao and Poison: Interactions on China's Southwest Frontier', Norma Diamond describes the origin and uses of the term 'Miao':

The term 'Miao' as used in Ming and Qing [dynasties] and up to the present is generally applied to several of linguistically and culturally differentiated local groups in Yunnan and Guizhou, none of whom called themselves by that term. The Ming and Qing classifications were sometimes further refined, based on the colour of women's dress (Black Miao, White Miao, Red Miao, Flowery Miao) sometimes on the degree of sinicization (Raw Miao, Cooked Miao), sometimes on the basis of geographical location or peculiarity of custom.¹⁶

The Miao can generally be divided into four main groups; the Northern, Eastern, Western and Far-Western. The Far-Western Miao are known as 'Hmong' and live in Southern China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam.¹⁷ The Miao have their own language and dialects of the Miao-Yao branch of the Sino-Tibetan Language family, which was not written until the 1950's.¹⁸

The Miao language is part of the Hmong-Mien group. There are 35 dialects among the Far-Western Hmong and these have varying degrees of mutual intelligibility. A written script

¹³ Google Maps - Accessed 19 April 2010, Attachment 12

¹⁴ TopTrip, <http://www.toptrip.cc/destination/minority/miao.htm>, undated - Accessed 19 April 2010, Attachment 15

¹⁵ Expedia.com.au,

<http://www.expedia.com.au/pub/agent.dll?qscr=fexp&flag=q&city1=KWE&citd1=FOC&date1=5/4/2010&date2=12/4/2010&cAdu=1&cSen=&cChi=&cInf=&infs=2&tktt=&ecrc=&eccn=&qryt=8&rdct=1&mdpcid=taflt.ExpediaAUAirFlights> - Accessed 19 April 2010, Attachment 16

¹⁶ Diamond, N., 'The Miao and Poison: Interactions on China's Southwest Frontier', *Ethnology*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (Jan 1988), pp. 2, Attachment 43

¹⁷ Overseas Missionary Fellowship, undated,

http://www.omf.org/omf/us/peoples_and_places/people_groups/miao_of_china - Accessed 13 April 2010, Attachment 11

¹⁸ <http://yeschinatour.com/china-guides/china-attractions/jiaxiu-tower-guiyang/> - Accessed 29 March 2010, Attachment 8

based on the Latin alphabet was created in 1956. Some Mandarin is used, but few Miao children are fluent in Mandarin.¹⁹

There are about 7.6 million Miao in China, distributed predominantly across Guizhou, Hunan, Yunnan and Guangxi provinces, often in autonomous regions.²⁰ About half of the Miaos in China live in Guizhou Province and the other half are scattered throughout Hunan (15%), Yunnan (15%), Sichuan, Guangxi, and Hubei (17%).²¹ Statistics regarding the population of Miao in Guiyang city could not be located.

There are a great number of villages throughout Guizhou which are inhabited by the Miao people, including in the three autonomous minority prefectures:

- Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture;
- Qiannan Miao and Bouyei Autonomous Prefecture; and
- Qianxinan Bouyei and Miao Autonomous Prefecture.

There are a multitude of small Miao villages around Guiyang²² (examples are at Attachment 13). Tours of these villages for tourists typically begin in Guiyang and drive east to Kaili or south west to Anshun. Both routes are populated with small Miao villages, many of which could not be located on Google Maps.²³

2.3. Cultural practice and lifestyle of the Miao in Guizhou

2.3.1. Can you describe the clothes the Miao people wear?

The Miao wear a variety of traditional clothing; however, these are increasingly reserved for festival occasions and special events. Particular subgroups of the Miao specialise in arts or craft including batik, embroidery, paper making and silver-smithing²⁴ and are named for their specialities and styles of dress. For instance, the Big Flowery Miao specialise in embroidery, the Short Skirt Miao and the Long Skirt Miao wear complex pleated skirts, and the White Miao, the Black Miao are named for the colour of their clothes.²⁵

¹⁹ Overseas Missionary Fellowship, undated, http://www.omf.org/omf/us/peoples_and_places/people_groups/miao_of_china - Accessed 13 April 2010, Attachment 11

²⁰ <http://yeschinatour.com/china-guides/china-attractions/jiaxiu-tower-guiyang/> - Accessed 29 March 2010, Attachment 8

²¹ Overseas Missionary Fellowship, undated, http://www.omf.org/omf/us/peoples_and_places/people_groups/miao_of_china - Accessed 13 April 2010, Attachment 11

²² ThinkQuest, undated, <http://library.thinkquest.org/20443/guizhou.html> - Accessed 13 April 2010, Attachment 17

²³ Sinoway Travel, undated <http://www.sinowaytravel.com/china-tours/Southeast-Guizhou-Ethnic-Culture-and-Guilin-Tour.SWGZ006.aspx> - Accessed 6 April 2010, Attachment 18 ; West-Saga.com, <http://www.west-saga.com/guizhou/guiyangkailimiaoethnicminorityvillagestour.html> - Accessed 6 April 2010, Attachment 19

²⁴ Min Zu, 2001, 'Dressing Up', *China Daily*, (North American ed.), New York, February 2001, p. 9.

²⁵ West-Saga.com, <http://www.west-saga.com/guizhou/guiyangkailimiaoethnicminorityvillagestour.html> - Accessed 6 April 2010, Attachment 19



White Miao women in festival dress at the Dance Flower festival near Dafang, 2007.²⁶



Festival dress of women from the Long Horned Miao whose women use a wooden horn and their own hair or their mothers' hair together with black wool to decorate their heads.²⁷



Young Miao women dressed in silver for the 'Sister Festival'. The four day festival, described as the "Miao's folk Valentine's Day, features series of folklore fetes, including full-dress grand parade, dragon canoe race, bullfight as appealing tourist attraction of folk art."²⁸

2.3.2. Do they eat special food?

Food preparation and ingredients

²⁶ Chen, T., 2008, 'White Miao Flower Dance Festival' 20 January, *Tribal Textiles*, http://www.tribaltextiles.info/articles/White_Miao_dff/white_miao_dff05.html - Accessed 13 April 2010, Attachment 20. These photographs were submitted to the website by Tony Chen Hualong, a Miao from Langde village in Guizhou province.

²⁷ Chen, T., 2009, 'Long Horned Miao' 17 March, *Tribal Textiles*, http://www.tribaltextiles.info/articles/White_Miao_dff/white_miao_dff05.html - Accessed 13 April 2010, Attachment 20.

²⁸ ChinaA2Z.com, 2009, <http://news.chinaa2z.com/news/html/2009/20090413/20090413094553744253/20090413094933480861.html> last updated 13 April - Accessed 15 April 2010, Attachment 21

According to the provincial government website, *GYTouch*, the Miao people in Guizhou eat rice at each of the three meals and their cuisine includes fried glutinous rice cakes which are sometimes filled with fresh meat and/or pickled vegetables.

Cooking ingredients commonly include rape seed or tea seed oil, dog, fowl, hot pepper, beans, green vegetables, turnips and melons. The Miao are also noted for their sour fish soup which “is prepared for in every household”.²⁹ In order to pickle meat and vegetables, the Miao household will frequently contain ‘Shuantan’ (earthen jars for pickled food).

In her article, ‘Land of the Thunder God’, freelance journalist Liza Power describes a meal prepared for her by Miao villagers at Kaijue in Guizhou, as “salty fish, chicken, egg and home-brewed rice wine.” For breakfast she was served, “steaming bamboo soup, fried eggs and rice.”³⁰

Guiyang City cuisine

Miao and other ethnic minority cuisine is a feature of Guiyang city life. For example, Miao restaurants and stalls have been described by travellers and travel guides as serving:

- **hot pot** (Suan Tang Yu (酸汤鱼)) centred around a hot and spicy broth with a large whole fish chopped up inside. Vegetables and meats can be added. The dipping bowls contain chili paste and sometimes a cube of fermented tofu.
- **Mi Jiu** (米酒) a sweet purple rice wine produced in the province.³¹
- **Silk Babies** (丝娃娃) or Silk dolls are particular to Guizhou: a stack of thin rice pancakes with table covered in bowls of raw and pickled vegetables with a small dish for mixing chili sauce and vinegar.

Guiyang has vibrant street markets with a wide variety of food stalls. Snack carts sell grilled tofu, mutton kabobs and spicy pickled radishes, grilled freshwater fish, crayfish, snails, chicken, pork, mutton, cabbage, garlic greens, onions, eggplants, mutton and chili peppers.³²

Guiyang locals (not necessarily Miao) also prepare:

- **Guiyang Style Beef Noodles** (牛肉粉 niuroufen) a hot red broth or a mild beef broth with fresh whole garlic cloves, crushed dried red pepper, salt, MSG and Sichuan Pepper (花椒 huajiao) can be added.
- **Fried Chili Squid** (鱿鱼: youyu). A peculiar local delicacy (especially given the fact that Guizhou is landlocked and many residents have never seen the ocean). Chopped squid is skewered and deep fried before being cooked on a separate metal plate in a bath of sizzling chili sauce.

2.3.3. Can you describe the housing of the Miao people?

Although regional variations exist, Louise Power writes,

[t]raditionally, [many] Miao house[s are] built to the same plan and [are] broken roughly into three levels, though this is not to say there are always three sets of floorboards or three ceilings. There are planks and odd strips of canvas and plastic that roughly divide heights and spaces and fend off the blasts of mountain air.

²⁹ GYTouch, ‘Miao Ethnic Group’, <http://www.gytouch.com.cn/english/Custom/miaozhu.asp> undated- Accessed 31 March 2010, Attachment 22

³⁰ Power, L., 2000, ‘Land of the Thunder God’, *The Age*, 23 September.

³¹ WikiTravel, 2009, <http://wikitravel.org/en/Guiyang>, 8 December - Accessed 29 March 2010, Attachment 23

³² WikiTravel, 2009, <http://wikitravel.org/en/Guiyang>, 8 December, Accessed 29 March 2010, Attachment 23

The bottom level houses chickens and pigs, the middle is for living and cooking and the top is used for the storage of firewood and crops. The Miao cook by flame, but Miao houses do not have chimneys.³³

Modern brick housing decorated with mosaics on the outer walls are also present.³⁴

An example of traditional Miao architecture at Kaili, Guizhou Province is illustrated below³⁵:



3. Religion and belief

3.1. What religion are the Miao people?

The Miao historically practice animism and ancestor worship, but Marxist ideology has heavily influenced younger Miao. Much of traditional Miao religious activity is focused on appeasing and exorcising local spirits, demons and ancestral ghosts. Spirits can be benevolent or mischievous, protecting or bringing harm to men, beasts, and crops. Elaborate rituals and animal sacrifice are used for protection. The Chinese government discourages these traditional practices.³⁶ No further information was available on the methods used to discourage these practices.

In addition to traditional spiritualities, the evangelical website, *Pray for China* reports that the first Miao converts to Christianity were in 1898, and since then, Miao communities, particularly the Big Flowery Miao continued to convert to Christianity. *Pray for China* estimates that in 1949, Guizhou may have had about 40, 000 Protestant believers, many of whom were persecuted and imprisoned under the revolutionary government. *Pray for China* further estimates that “there are now perhaps 500,000 Protestants [in Guizhou Province.] ... The vast majority of these are Miao, Yi and other minorities...[up to] 80 per cent of the Big Flowery Miao are believers.”³⁷

The Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) reports that,

... each Miao group has varying percentages of Christians. Some Miao villages are totally Christian. For example, the Big-Flowery Miao are around 60 percent, whereas the Black Hmong are close to 0. White and Blue Hmong are seeing large numbers of people come to Christ with other groups currently hearing the gospel.

³³ Power, L., 2000, ‘Land of the Thunder God’, *The Age*, 23 September, Factiva.

³⁴ Furong Zhou, 2006, ‘Ethnic cultural heritage threatened with extinction’, *China Daily*, January 18. (Factiva)

³⁵ West-Saga.com, <http://www.west-saga.com/guizhou/guiyangkailimiaoethnicminorityvillagestour.html> - Accessed 6 April 2010, Attachment 19

³⁶ Overseas Missionary Fellowship, undated, http://www.omf.org/omf/us/peoples_and_places/people_groups/miao_of_china - Accessed 13 April 2010, Attachment 11

³⁷ Pray for China, undated, <http://www.prayforchina.com/province/Guizhou.htm> - Accessed 19 April 2010 Attachment 24

Although weak in doctrine and training, dedication and fervor are high among Miao Christians. Hundreds of Hmong leaders are currently receiving Bible training in non-formal settings. Gospel broadcasts are currently available in Blue and White Hmong, with current plans to develop broadcasts in Black, Sinicized, and Big-Flowery.³⁸

In Guizhou currently, Christianity activity sanctioned by the Chinese state is a visible part of life. The office of the Christian Guiyang Three Self Patriotic Committee is in the centre of the city. Fielder describes 250 Christian volunteers helping to build a bible school in Guiyang in 2004.³⁹

3.2. What festivals do the Miao people celebrate in Guiyang?

The lonely Planet Guide to China states there are “hundreds of festivals [in Guizhou] every year”.⁴⁰ A sample of the minority festivals held in Guiyang is provided below.⁴¹

Festival	Ethnic group	Dates for 2010	Activities
New Year	Black Miao	13 November	Singing and dancing
Lusheng Meeting of Miao in Huangping		3-5 November	Singing, dancing, cock fighting, horse racing
Dance Flower Festival	Seashell Miao	17 July	
Dance Flower Festival	Long Horn Miao	16 June	
Dragon Boat Festival	Black Miao	5-7 July	Dragon Boat racing
Sister Meal Festival	Black Miao	28- 30 April	Dating, family gatherings, lusheng music, dancing, folk show
Dance Flower Festival	Miao	2-5 April	
Festival season of Miao	Miao	16- 28 February, every day	young people’s party in winter

3.3. Are there any reports of members of the Local Church proselytising in Guiyang?

No reports referring to the Local Church were found. However, the authorities have acted against Christians for participating in ‘evil cults’. In May 2008, RadioFreeChina reported that

³⁸ Overseas Missionary Fellowship, undated, http://www.omf.org/omf/us/peoples_and_places/people_groups/miao_of_china - Accessed 13 April 2010, Attachment 11

³⁹ Fielder, C., ‘The Growth of the Protestant Church in China’, paper presented to the 21st National Conference of the U. S Catholic China Bureau, http://www.usccb.net/conference/conference21/Paper_Fielder15Jul05.pdf - Accessed 19 April 2010, Attachment 25

⁴⁰ Harper, D., et al., *China*, Lonely Planet Publications, May 2009, p. 663.

⁴¹ http://villagechina-travel.com/love-song-festival-of-buyi/langswitch_lang/en and also see <http://news.chinaa2z.com/news/html/2009/20090413/20090413094553744253/20090413094933480861.html> and <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/cityguides/guizhou/minority/> for other lists of Miao and other minority festivals in Guizhou Province.

a house church meeting was disrupted by police in Xishui Country in Guizhou Province.⁴² The police confiscated hymnbooks and leaflets. The report goes on,

[t]wo of the church members, Wu Xin Quan and Wu Guang Qing were summoned to Erli Police Station. Two more members Li Shi Zhen and Zhang Shao Lin were taken by force in the afternoon of the same day. The members were detained and charged with ‘participation in an evil cult’.

In her paper presented to the 21st National Catholic China Conference in Seattle in 2005, Caroline Fielder reports that contacts between house churches and foreign Christians are closely watched. Foreigners were expelled from Guiyang in 1997 and again in 1999, and local believers have been fined after accepting their pamphlets.⁴³

3.4. Are there any reports of members of the Local Church being arrested/detained in the karst caves near Guiyang in January 2006?

No reports were found regarding the arrest or detention of Local Church members in karst caves in Guizhou.

4. Tobacco and Smoking

4.1. Do Miao children smoke?

4.2. Is smoking seen as a local tradition for the Miao children in Guiyang?

4.3. Is it seen as a problem in the Guiyang area?

No references to Miao children smoking tobacco were located; however, tobacco smoking is a growing problem in Guizhou Province and across China. Statistics indicate that the proportion of smokers among students has not declined over the past five years, while the starting age has become even younger. A nationwide survey revealed that among every ten minors, one is a smoker.⁴⁴

The World Health Organisation’s *Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic*, 2009 states that 5.5 per cent of Chinese children between 13- 15 years used tobacco in 2009.⁴⁵ According to the World Health Organisation, 35 per cent of the adult population in China (15-69 years) have smoked at some time, and 31 per cent were currently smoking in 2002.⁴⁶

In his article for *The Globe and Mail*, Geoffrey York reports that the official website for the Chinese state-owned tobacco monopoly states,

you are more likely to get cancer from cooking smoke than you are from your cigarette habit...[that smoking] solve[s] your health problems, help[s] your

⁴² Ireland, M., ‘House Church members detained in Guizhou Province’, *RadioFreeChina*, <http://radiofreechina.wordpress.com/2008/05/20/house-church-members-detained-in-guizhou-province/> - Accessed 19 April 2010, Attachment 14

⁴³ Fielder, C., ‘The Growth of the Protestant Church in China’, paper presented to the 21st National Conference of the U. S Catholic China Bureau, http://www.usccb.net/conference/conference21/Paper_Fielder15Jul05.pdf - Accessed 19 April 2010, Attachment 25

⁴⁴ China.org, ‘China’s Smoking Population Getting younger’, as printed in the *People’s Daily*, 2002 <http://www.china.org.cn/english/LI-e/33613.htm> 31 March - Accessed 14 April 2010, Attachment 26

⁴⁵ The World Health Organisation, 2009, *Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2009: Implementing smoke-free environments* <http://www.who.int/tobacco/mpower/2009/en/index.html> - Accessed 12 April 2010, Attachment 27

⁴⁶ The World Health Organisation, 2009, *Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2009: Implementing smoke-free environments*, <http://www.who.int/tobacco/mpower/2009/en/index.html> - Accessed 12 April 2010, Attachment 27

lifestyle, strengthen[s] the equality of women, and even eliminat[es] loneliness and depression.⁴⁷

The social significance of smoking in China generally is discussed on a site designed to assist English language teachers in China adapt to Chinese customs:

In addition to the remarkable prevalence of cigarette smoking, cigarettes themselves have a rather strong social significance in China. Chinese men often offer cigarettes as a common form of greeting and introduction. Many, if not most, government leaders smoke and, when at large gatherings or meetings, it is very common for the men to offer their colleagues a cigarette... As many Chinese men do use cigarettes in making introductions and for social networking, many will partially evaluate your economic worth and social status on the basis of the cost of the cigarettes you smoke in public. Cartons of cigarettes in China range in price from 35 to 800+ yuan (\$5.11 to \$117.00, respectively).⁴⁸

Although one in four people in China smoke tobacco⁴⁹, only a small number of references to smoking in Miao communities in Guizhou were located. Most referred to either the opium trade in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, or to tobacco smoking across China generally.

Throughout the latter half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Miao were heavily involved in cultivating and selling opium. Other than its obvious market value as a recreational drug, opium was also thought to treat malaria and was increasingly used for a variety of medical purposes.⁵⁰ R. K. Newman notes that although opium was rarely given to young children either medicinally, or to “quieten them”, “many Chinese youngsters in their teens were already part of the occupational and social networks where opium smoking was practiced”.⁵¹

Geoffrey York reports in an article for *The Globe and Mail* that “the province is filled with tobacco farms and cigarette factories.” Canadian doctors visiting Guizhou to educate the population on the health risks of cigarettes, saw a number of people,

smoking in [a hospital at one of Guizhou’s biggest cities]. A hospital shop was openly selling cigarettes... Children can easily buy cigarettes at Chinese shops, despite an official ban on sales to those under the age of 18. “Shop owners never refuse to sell us cigarettes,” said one 16 year old boy who was smoking as he played pool near a Guizhou school.⁵²

The evangelical website, *PrayforChina* notes that Guizhou is a poor, mountainous, landlocked province, and alcohol and tobacco “cause major social problems”.⁵³ The China Daily reported in 2002 that, half a million students [in Guiyang] responded positively to the Sunflower Cup Anti-Tobacco Project... jointly sponsored by the Soong Chingling Foundation, the State

⁴⁷ York, G., 2005, ‘In China, cigarettes are a kind of miracle drug’, *The Globe and Mail*, 11 June, <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/article887385.ece> - Accessed 14 April 2010 (alternatively at <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/06/19/weekinreview/19read.html> - Accessed 19 April 2010), Attachment 41

⁴⁸ Middle Kingdom Life, undated, <http://middlekingdomlife.com/guide/eating-drinking-smoking-china.htm> - Accessed 19 April 2010, Attachment 28

⁴⁹ China Daily, ‘Guiyang’s Youngsters say ‘No’ to Tobacco’, reprinted by the China Internet Information Centre, 2002, <http://www.china.org.cn/english/China/47881.htm#> - Accessed 14 April 2010, Attachment 29

⁵⁰ Bello, D., ‘The Venemous Course of Southwestern Opium: Qing Prohibition in Yunnan, Sichuan, and Guizhou in the Early Nineteenth Century’, *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 62, No. 4 (Nov. 2003), p5, Attachment 42

⁵¹ Newman, R. K., ‘Opium Smoking in Late Imperial China’, p781.

⁵² York, G., 2005, ‘In China, cigarettes are a kind of miracle drug’, *The Globe and Mail*, 11 June, <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/article887385.ece> - Accessed 14 April 2010 (alternatively at <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/06/19/weekinreview/19read.html> - Accessed 19 April 2010), Attachment 41

⁵³ Pray for China, undated, <http://www.prayforchina.com/province/Guizhou.htm> - Accessed 19 April 2010 Attachment 24

Tobacco Monopoly Administration, British American Tobacco Company and other related organisations.⁵⁴

In 2005 Peter Wonacott observed Miao villagers in Guizhou province in his article for the Wall Street Journal, 'Barefoot Doctors Make a Comeback in Rural China':

Women dress in black tunics and carry sloshing water buckets up dirt paths.
Older men stash wads of home grown tobacco in chequered head kerchiefs and smoke from skinny wood pipes.⁵⁵

Finally, an American blogger travelling through Guizhou in November 2006 reported that, "[w]hile walking back, we stopped to eat some sunflower seeds and drink a soda by the road. The man next door showed us how his baby could smoke cigarettes."⁵⁶ This is the only mention of an event of this type on the blog. A similar report was found at the web blog site *Chinasmack* which shows a two year old boy in Sichuan province lighting and smoking a cigarette.⁵⁷

4.4. Is there a particular tobacco planting area near Guiyang?

Although there is not a particular area which produces tobacco near Guiyang, China is the largest producer of tobacco in the world, and Guizhou province is one of the top three producers of tobacco, producing 14 per cent of the national total.⁵⁸ Improvements in terrace farming and irrigation has allowed Guizhou to develop a strong agricultural sector, and the province now produces a variety of crops including tobacco, corn, rice, rapeseed and tea. Nationally, tobacco farming is dominated by small scale, non-specialist growers (with a farm size of between 0.3-0.4 ha with only a third of that devoted to tobacco; farmers typically also grow food and other crops for household consumption).⁵⁹

According to the Hong Kong based NGO, 'Partnerships for Community Development' who are engaged in grass roots capacity building projects across mainland China, "about 85 per cent of the population in Guizhou is engaged in agriculture and 40 per cent of belongs to ethnic minority groups."⁶⁰

4.5. Is there a state owned tobacco factory in Guiyang? Please provide the name and location of this factory.

Tobacco is a state owned monopoly. The Chinese government regulates the production of tobacco across China through provincial governments, and buys all tobacco leaf from farmers at a fixed price. All tobacco factories in China are owned by the government.

Two cigarette factory buildings were found in Guiyang city⁶¹ ([see attached map](#)):

⁵⁴ China Daily, 'Guiyang's Youngsters say 'No' to Tobacco', *China.Org*, reprinted by the China Internet Information Centre, 2002, <http://www.china.org.cn/english/China/47881.htm#> - Accessed 14 April 2010, Attachment 29

⁵⁵ Wonacott, P., 2005, 'Barefoot Doctors Make a Comeback In Rural China - Trained as a Nurse, Ms. Li Treats Datang Village; Delivering a Baby For \$4', Wall Street Journal, 22 September.

⁵⁶ <http://www.travelpod.com/travel-blog-entries/bethverde/7/1232621040/tpod.html#pbrowser/bethverde/7/1232621040/filename=smoking-baby.jpg>

⁵⁷ ChinaSmack, <http://www.chinasmack.com/2009/videos/2-year-old-child-smokes-curses-in-sichuan.html> - Accessed 14 April 2010, Attachment 30

⁵⁸ The Hong Kong Trade Development Council, <http://www.hktcdc.com/info/vp/a/wr/en/1/5/1/1X06BUYK/China-Western-Region/GUIZHOU-PROVINCE.htm> last updated 4 February, 2010- Accessed 23 March 2010, Attachment 31

⁵⁹ FAO, *Issues in the Global Tobacco Economy: Selected case studies*, 'Tobacco in the People's Republic of China', p. 38, <http://www.fao.org/docrep/006/Y4997E/y4997e00.htm> - Accessed 19 April 2010

⁶⁰ Partnerships for Community Development, 'Guizhou', <http://www.pcd.org.hk/eng/guizhou.html> - Accessed 12 April 2010, Attachment 33

⁶¹ Chinasoft International Limited, *First Quarterly Report*, 2004, <http://www.icss.com.cn/cms/cms/upload/info/200812/916/123019313797917611.pdf> - Accessed 19 April 2010, Attachment 34

- **Guiyang Cigarette Factory**, (贵阳卷烟厂)
Juanyan Wuzi Company
Yunyan District of Guiyang City in Guizhou, Wishful Lane 25
Guiyang City, Guizhou 550003

- **The Guiyang Cigarette Factory** on Huansha Rd, Guiyang, Guizhou

The Guiyang Cigarette Plant, Guizhou Hungguoshu Tobacco Group Ltd⁶² (now China Tobacco Guizhou Industrial Co., Ltd.) predominately manufactures “Hungguoshu” brand cigarettes.⁶³ It was not possible to establish whether this reference to the Guiyang Tobacco Plant was in fact referring to either of the factories above.

An old factory called the Guizhou Hwangping (or Huangping) Tobacco Factory was mentioned in a SOH radio news report when retrenched workers protested at the National Tobacco Industry Conference in June 2008.⁶⁴ The company collapsed in the 1990s and the factory was closed shortly afterwards.

5. Geography

5.1. Where are the karst caves?

5.2. What are the distinctive features of the karst caves?

5.3. How far are the caves from Guiyang or from Miao villages?

Ninety per cent of Guizhou's total area is covered by mountains and hills, of which 70 per cent are karst topography.⁶⁵ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Global Geoparks Network (UNESCO GGN) provides a description of karst topography:

Karst is a distinctive topography in which the landscape is largely shaped by the dissolving action of water on carbonate bedrock (usually limestone, dolomite, or marble). This geological process, occurring over many thousands of years, results in unusual surface and subsurface features ranging from sinkholes, vertical shafts, disappearing streams, and springs, to complex underground drainage systems and caves.⁶⁶

Guizhou is famous for its karst caves⁶⁷ and other natural land formations, including the largest waterfall in China, the Huangguoshu Waterfall, 45 km southwest of Anshun which is surrounded by clusters of mountain peaks and caves. Among the caves at Huangguoshu Waterfall are the Dragon Palace (Long gong Cave) with an underground Karst type system, and the Zhijin Cave, another famous exemplar of the karst formation.⁶⁸ There are 30 smaller karst caves around the waterfall.⁶⁹ Examples of karst cave formations are illustrated below⁷⁰:

⁶² China Commodity Net, undated, <http://ccne.mofcom.gov.cn/298459> - Accessed 13 April 2010, Attachment 35

⁶³ The People's Government of Guiyang Municipality, <http://en.gygov.gov.cn/engygov/4036633787763785728/20090918/209533.html> - Accessed 12 April 2010, Attachment 36

⁶⁴ SONews, 2008, <http://sohnews.com/2008/07/02/breaking-news-redundant-guizhou-tobacco-employees-drink-poison-in-protest/> - Accessed 12 April 2010, Attachment 37

⁶⁵ China Tourist Maps, undated, <http://www.chinatouristmaps.com/provinces/guizhou.html>, - Accessed 19 April 2010, Attachment 38

⁶⁶ UNESCO, *Global GeoPark*, 2008, <http://www.globalgeopark.org/publish/portal1/tab226/info2213.htm> - Accessed 9 April 2010, Attachment 39

⁶⁷ More information on the karst cave formations in southern China, particularly Guizhou, can be found here, with pictures: <http://yeschinatour.com/china-guides/chinese-culture/karst-landform/> - Accessed 13 April 2010

⁶⁸ China Tourist Maps, undated, <http://www.chinatouristmaps.com/provinces/guizhou.html>, - Accessed 19 April 2010, Attachment 38

⁶⁹ Guilin China Travel Service, undated, <http://toursonline.cn/activities/guiyang.asp> - Accessed 13 April 2010, Attachment 10

⁷⁰ 8264.net, http://www.8264.net/html/Fair_Events/Other_Events/200809/03-2185.html - Accessed 19 April 2010, Attachment 40



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