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Hiddenchina Signature Tour Series:  
Southwest Guangxi, from Nanning to  
Jiangxi, Detian and Mingshi



**BAMENG RSERVOIR, JINSHI, DETIAN AND MINGSHI**

- Destinations: Nanning, Bameng Reservoir, Jingxi, Detian, Mingshi
- Duration: 5 days
- tour start in: Nanning
- tour end in: Nanning
- group size: 1+ Pax
- travel time: all year, ideal from mid August until early June

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

**DAY 1: NANNING – JINGXI (L/D)**

In the morning you will be picked up by our driver and guide. Today you will spend most of the time in the car and on the road. The first two driving hours are not very interesting, as the scenery is unspectacular and you will drive on the highway. However, then the scenery changes quickly from



"flatlands" to the unique Karst mountain for which mostly the Guilin region famous is. The area is not often visited by foreign travelers and you will notice it by the occasional surprised look by the locals. For lunch we stop at a small village where we walk a long a small but beautiful stream and enjoy some local dishes in a small restaurant. In the afternoon drive to Bameng Reservoir, an artificial lake with the purpose of feeding water and power to a gigantic Aluminum plant

and the nearby towns. Since the lake is man-made, there are Karst mountain Islands in the lake and with good weather, some impressive pictures can be shot.

Afterwards drive to Jingxi, the local district Capital.

Overnight in the best hotel in town (3\*)



**DAY 2: JINGXI - DETIAN (B/L/D)**

After yesterdays long drive you will be rewarded starting from today. You will spend only time in the car to get from one spot to the next and the drives are short and the scenery spectacular. The day starts with a drive to a small village, that only starts to discover tourism. Afterwards you will drive through a quite remote and wild area where you can also see occasionally some rice terraces. On a small river



we will leave the main road and drive a short time to a special place. It requires a short walk uphill, but is well worth it, as we will show you one of the countless secret places we discovered on our exploration tours. The area is full of hidden gems and a joy to discover all the small and beautiful spots. After a local lunch we visit the spectacular Tonglin Canyon. With its deep and steep cliffs and the high waterfall at the end of the

canyon, this is one of the more impressive canyons in China. Notable is also the cave burial site, one of the few in China, at the end of the canyon.

After the Tongling Canyon visit drive to the Detian waterfall area where you will stay overnight in the 4-5\* Kapok Boutique Hotels, one of the nicest in all of Guangxi province.

**DAY 3: DETIAN - MINGSHI (B/L/D)**


After breakfast drive to the Detian waterfalls which are the second largest transnational waterfalls in the world. After a short drive we will use a bamboo raft which takes us on a ride in the bay of the waterfalls. Afterwards we walk on the Chinese side uphill to see the falls from different positions. On top you will even set foot on Vietnamese soil without the need of showing a passport or having a Visa. Various Vietnamese vendors sell mainly food items from

Vietnam. Afterwards we drive to the Mingshi area and on the way we may stop occasionally for some sightseeing. Arrived in Mingshi we check-in the 3\* Mingshi resort which is a lovely resort hotel in the midst of the Karst mountains. Please note that the beds are a bit on the short and hard side, so for

people over 1.85m with a preference for soft mats, it will be not perfect. However, the unique scenery and the dramatic landscape are well worth it. The hotel also has a small pool which is great to simply relax a few hours. Generally the area is still developing and there is no mass tourism in the region (yet). In the afternoon we will discover the area and in the evening have a dinner on the terrace of the hotel. Overnight in 3\* Mingshi Resort.

<b>DAY 4:</b>	<b>MINGSHI</b>	<b>(B)</b>
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Today you have the choice of either discover the area by car or by rented bike. You can also just relax and enjoy the hotel facilities or a combination of all of them.



<b>DAY 5:</b>	<b>MINGSHI - NANNING</b>	<b>(B/L)</b>
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After breakfast drive around 5-6 hours back to Nanning. If there is time and depending on the time we can visit the small ancient village of Yangmei, but currently road construction prevent to drive there in a timely manner. Transfer to the airport of Nanning for your departure flight.

**RATES**

**RATE FOR 2 PERSONS IN DOUBLE / TWIN ROOM (PRIVATE TOUR):**

**RMB 19'800 / CHF 2'880**

**SINGLE ROOM SURCHARGE:**

**RMB 2'100 / CHF 310**

**Included Services:**

- Overnight in the mentioned hotels in Standard room category (mostly 3\* Hotels)
- All meals as mentioned in the program
- All transfers in private car with driver.
- All entrance fees, road toll fees according to itinerary
- English speaking local guide for the whole tour

**Nicht inkludierte Leistungen:**

- Flight from and to Nanning
- Personal expenses
- alcoholic drinks during the meals
- Insurances (travel insurance, cancellation insurance)

**INSURANCE IS RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS. HIDDENCHINA.NET GMBH STRONGLY RECOMMENDS  
TO ISSUE CANCELLATION INSURANCE**

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

Traveling in China, especially off the beaten tracks and in rural areas, can be adventurous and carries also a certain amount of surprises and risks. Hiddenchina.net ensures that in every situation we and our guides are trying to get out a maximum of comfort for our clients. All our guides are carefully chosen and selected by their abilities and experience. Nevertheless, there might be surprises. We hereby express that a voyage in China needs patience, adaptation and tolerance. In addition due to lack of infrastructure, in rural areas in China there is often a lack of western sanitary standards. Clients of hiddenchina.net accept - upon signing a contract - to be aware of these circumstances, and accept changes which may occur in order to keep security and comfort of the clients according to the circumstances to a maximum during the trip.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR CHINA TRAVELERS**

Traveling in China is always an adventure. Quality of service can range from “top” in selected 5\* Hotels in the big cities to “very poor”. While traveling in China, even with an organized tour, the clients have to be ready for unexpected changes (e.g. due to natural disasters such as landslides or flooding) or other surprises. In hotels by example, it can happen that you will get phone calls in the middle of the night, offering you a special massage service. The following chapters will tell you more about what you should consider when traveling in China.

### **FACE**

You may have heard it before and for the experienced China traveler it's a “must know”: In China, everything is about “giving and losing face”. Chinese people are very proud of their culture, food and traditions. Respect this fact and try not to bring a Chinese into an embarrassing situation, as he or she might lose his face in front of coworkers, friends, family members or even the authorities. Try to be polite, smile and - especially to English speaking Chinese - always praise their language skills. Chinese can be considered as reactive people. If you treat Chinese people in an arrogant and harsh way, you will be treated the same way. When you feel cheated, try to solve the situation in a gentle and charming way. You will achieve your goal much faster. Also try to react calmly in stress situations and stay friendly. For every problem in China there is a solution. It's up to you how effective you will get to this solution. Being angry and aggressive is contra productive in the most cases.

### **SECURITY**

Especially large cities in China are extremely safe. Chinese people have to fear severe punishment when being caught by the authorities in illegal matters when foreigners are involved. However, be aware that pick pocketing happens everywhere, so keep an eye on your belongings and never leave your luggage unattended. When going out at night, China's large cities are much safer than practically all European cities. A single woman has nothing to fear when walking in a dark alley even at 4 o'clock in the morning.



## **HEALTH**

It is also recommended to visit your house doctor before you go on a China trip and make all the necessary vaccinations. Your doctor will inform you what you will need. For travelers going to south China, it is also recommended to carry a supply of Malaria remedies. As the avian influenza is getting more and more a serious issue in Asia and a pandemic outbreak will happen sooner or later, the traveler should also consider buying a box of "Tamiflu" before the trip begins.

When traveling in China and especially when eating a lot of local food, a supply of remedies for stomach problems is highly recommended. We will always take care of taking you to clean restaurants with high quality standards. However, your body will have to deal with a wide range of unknown food, spices and other ingredients in China and also with different bacteria and viruses than in Europe's clean environment. When being on a 3 week China trip, you have to reckon with stomach problems at least once. To cure them it is recommended to take pharmaceuticals, which are rich in salt and minerals and give you back the elements you will lose during a diarrhea. From our longtime China experience, one of the best remedies is to eat well-boiled Chinese mushrooms and bananas as well as to drink tomato juice. On many of our private trips, this helped much better than the Western medication like e.g. Imodium. Always take toilet paper with you, as you won't find any in public toilets! Travelers going to high altitude areas such as Tibet are also recommended to take a supply of Diamox in case of altitude sickness. Please get advice from your doctor.

## **CLIMATE**

China has several different climatic zones. From high-altitude to sub-tropic and desert climate, there is everything. Depending on your date of arrival in China, you might be traveling in the rainy season. E.g. in southern China, this time mostly starts late May / early June and lasts until August. This year, in the provinces of Guangxi and Guizhou heavy flooding took the life of several hundred local people. However, we will adapt the trip according to your travel time and avoid the areas with heavy rain.

## **LUGGAGE**

Most airlines allow you to check-in 20 kg of luggage (economy class). It is not allowed to take nutrition products (cheese, meat) as well as pornographic material. Please ensure that your "Swiss army knife" and other "dangerous products" are checked in with your luggage and not in the hand luggage.

China offers you a wide range of shopping possibilities. So if you plan to go for extensive shopping, take a minimum of luggage to China. However, whenever you forgot something, don't worry, more or less everything you need in daily life, can be bought much cheaper in China (see chapter below). Be aware that many customs authorities like the ones in Paris and Milan can fine you heavily when finding out that you try to import faked products from China such as Yves St Laurent bags, Gucci items or Prada clothes.

## **SHOPPING**

Except for imported luxury goods and high-end electrical equipment such as beamers or imported laptops, more or less everything is cheaper in China than in Western Europe. Especially clothes can be bought at a very low price. Many shopping areas offer faked products (sometimes in extremely good quality). However, in many places where no prices are indicated you have to bargain about the price (see chapter below). Please note that when buying a faked product, especially at the airport in Paris, you can get into trouble. The fight against faked products is now at a point, that authorities can or will take away your purchase and will heavily fine you. For the golf lovers, there is a wide range of possibilities to buy whole golf sets at a ridiculously low price. Have your suits tailor-made, buy ties, silk products, pearls etc. at a very low price. For most Europeans, DVD's are of special interest. For a DVD you pay between 8 and 10 RMB (about 1 EURO) and most of the movies are available even before they are shown in European cinemas. The advantage is that DVD's take away only little space and weight. But be aware that in many cases you are buying illegally copied and distributed products.

Credit cards are only accepted in major stores, 5\* hotels and upwards and western restaurants. As from 1st January 2013 it is no longer possible to cash out money from Chinese ATM's with your MAESTRO Card. Only possibility is to get money at the ATM's with your credit card or change foreign currency at a bank (daily limit is USD 4'000 and passport is required. Annual limit USD 50'000 or the equivalent in foreign currency). Money can be changed at major branches of the Bank of China or in western hotels. Please note that you need to show your passport for changing money.

## **BARGAINING**

As mentioned in the "shopping" chapter, in many places you have to bargain for your price. Western tourists are mostly looked at as "big dollar signs" and accordingly the price will be set 400 – 500% above the price the vendor is ready to sell his or her merchandise. The first rule is to go below the first offered price. So when the vendor asks for 100 RMB, you can set your offer to 20-25 RMB. Then it depends on your bargaining skills at what price you will get it. A simple trick is, when it seems too expensive for you, to walk away from the vendor. If he or she doesn't follow you, you know that your bid was too low. Please also note, always stay friendly and smile when bargaining. Once you agreed for a price, you have to buy the product. Otherwise you and the vendor will lose face.

## **LANGUAGE AND BEHAVIOR**

Even in big cities like Beijing and Shanghai, it is most unlikely that you find English speaking taxi drivers or personnel in the shops. Therefore it is recommended to take a phrase book with you, where you can show what you need. Chinese people are mostly friendly and curious towards foreigners. However, Chinese are also very proud of their country and culture and some behavior will be strange for travelers who come to China for the first time. In many places (even sometimes in public buses) people smoke a lot and for the non-smoker, China can be a terrible place. You also often see Chinese people spitting accompanied by strange noises. The best way to get around it is to ignore it and live with it. For the smoker on the other hand China is a paradise, as it is more or less everywhere allowed to smoke and cigarettes are extremely cheap, although some foreign brands might be faked. Please



also note that you might be invited to test your drinking skills. The easiest way to avoid it without losing face is to tell your hosts that due to liver problems you're not allowed to drink.

### **TIPPING**

Although China is - especially away from the big cities - a very poor country, tipping only exists in the 5\* surroundings of the big cities. In restaurants or taxis and hotels (except 5\* hotels) tipping is a no-no. However, tour guides and drivers of organized tours should be tipped. Most guides and drivers are roughly paid with 10 Euro per day and rely on additional income. With Chinese tour groups (which often go shopping) the guides always get a commission in the shops, where they make most of their salary. As European groups usually do not visit as many shops as Chinese tourists, guides and drivers have to rely on tips.

Generally a tip of RMB 30 per person and day is reasonable. When you are in a tour group it is recommended that the group collects the tips and hands it to the guides and drivers in an envelope. It is also very helpful to take some souvenirs with you, like for example watches or picture postcards from your home country.

### **SMALL TALK AND CONVERSATION**

Small talk in China is a bit different than in Europe, but there are also topics which should be avoided and topics which are perfect for small talk.

One of the most common greetings in China is "Ni chi fan le ma?" which literally means "Have you eaten yet?" This emphasizes the importance of eating in China, and it is much more a social event than in the West, therefore food is always a welcomed topic.

In some cases you also might be confronted with rather private questions such as about your marital status and about family. The Chinese are very family oriented, so don't feel embarrassed when people ask you rather private questions, it's just small talk. Sometimes, especially in business surroundings, people also might ask you about your salary, which is quite normal in China. Here you can escape (if you don't want to tell the truth) by telling some fictional figure, or when telling the truth and your counterpart's eyebrows rise, you explain how expensive the life in Europe is.

Topics which should be avoided at all costs are all political related such as the Cultural Revolution, critics against the system or chairman Mao, the Tibet and Taiwan question, human rights or how to treat animals. If you want to have answers to these questions you might do it through your guide. Do not overload your guide with too many hard questions in the beginning though. Tactically it is wise to hide these questions in some compliments and be as subtle as possible (see also the chapter about "face"). Please note that young Chinese (below 30) are more open to discuss critical topics than people above 30.

Please also note that Chinese people tend to touch you, which is not a sign of homosexuality but just a sign of sympathy. In such a situation, when you feel uncomfortable, don't react in a rude or harsh way;

just try to escape the contact by elegant means. Mostly a hearty fit of coughing does the trick (SARS is still in Chinese people's mind).

### **TRAFFIC AND TAXI**

The public transport system in China is basically quite convenient. Every major city has an airport; there are many train routes (even though there is mostly only one train per day between two destinations) and public buses. Public buses are very cheap although the comfort is sometimes a bit poor.

In the cities, the most convenient public transport is the taxi. You can, compared to Europe, basically take a taxi anytime and everywhere at a very low price. Be careful that on major tourist sites there are also drivers trying to make extra money. When a taxi has no taximeter (make sure that the driver in taxis with a taximeter always puts it on), negotiate the rate before you get into the vehicle. However, some drivers will still try to make you pay an extra fee at the end. Just tell him that you pay the negotiated price, nothing more, and nothing less. Please also note that most drivers don't speak English. So take a bilingual map, a taxi card or a guidebook with you. Tell the reception in the hotel to write down the addresses for you so you can show it to the driver. Please note that highway fares have to be paid by the customer and not the driver (for example, in Beijing the fee for the airport expressway is 10 Yuan for passenger cars). This fee will be added to the amount shown on the taximeter.

### **USEFUL THINGS TO TAKE ON A CHINA TRIP**

Several Swiss army knives, a compass, 9:55pharmaceuticals (see health chapter), a first-aid kit, tape, watches (not too expensive), money clip, camera (films can be bought and developed on spot for a very reasonable price), deodorant (rarely available in China), sunglasses, altimeter (for Tibet and Himalaya tours), GPS, safety belt for money, literature, guidebooks, credit-/bank card and a lot of patience.

For ladies: tampons are rarely available in China.