



Guìzhōu

POP 35.1 MILLION

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Old Kaili Sour Fish Restaurant (p641)
- ➔ Sihéyuàn (p641)
- ➔ Anshun Night Market (p653)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Dàhéguān Hotel (p650)
- ➔ He House Art Hotel (p641)
- ➔ Indigo Lodge (p648)
- ➔ Double Tree Hilton (p652)
- ➔ River View Private Hotel (p658)

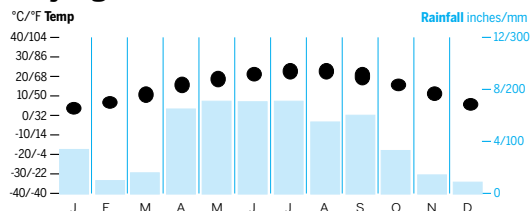
Why Go?

It's hard to call Guìzhōu (贵州) underrated as a travel destination when it's largely unknown to travellers outside China entirely – and what a travesty of justice. The province has two of the country's largest and most spectacular natural features – a waterfall and a cave – while outside the capital, Guiyang, it's pretty much green hills and valleys, flowing rivers and limestone formations to the horizon. There's even a 'bamboo sea'.

Guìzhōu's people are as diverse as its environment. Around 37% of the province's population consists of more than 18 ethnic minorities. Flitting around the Dong and Miao villages in the east of the province is like an anthropological dream sequence. Nearby is the ancient riverside settlement of Zhènyuǎn, as striking as Guìlín to the south, where Chinese tourists chuckle into their hot-and-spicy sour fish soup that they still have it all to themselves.

When to Go

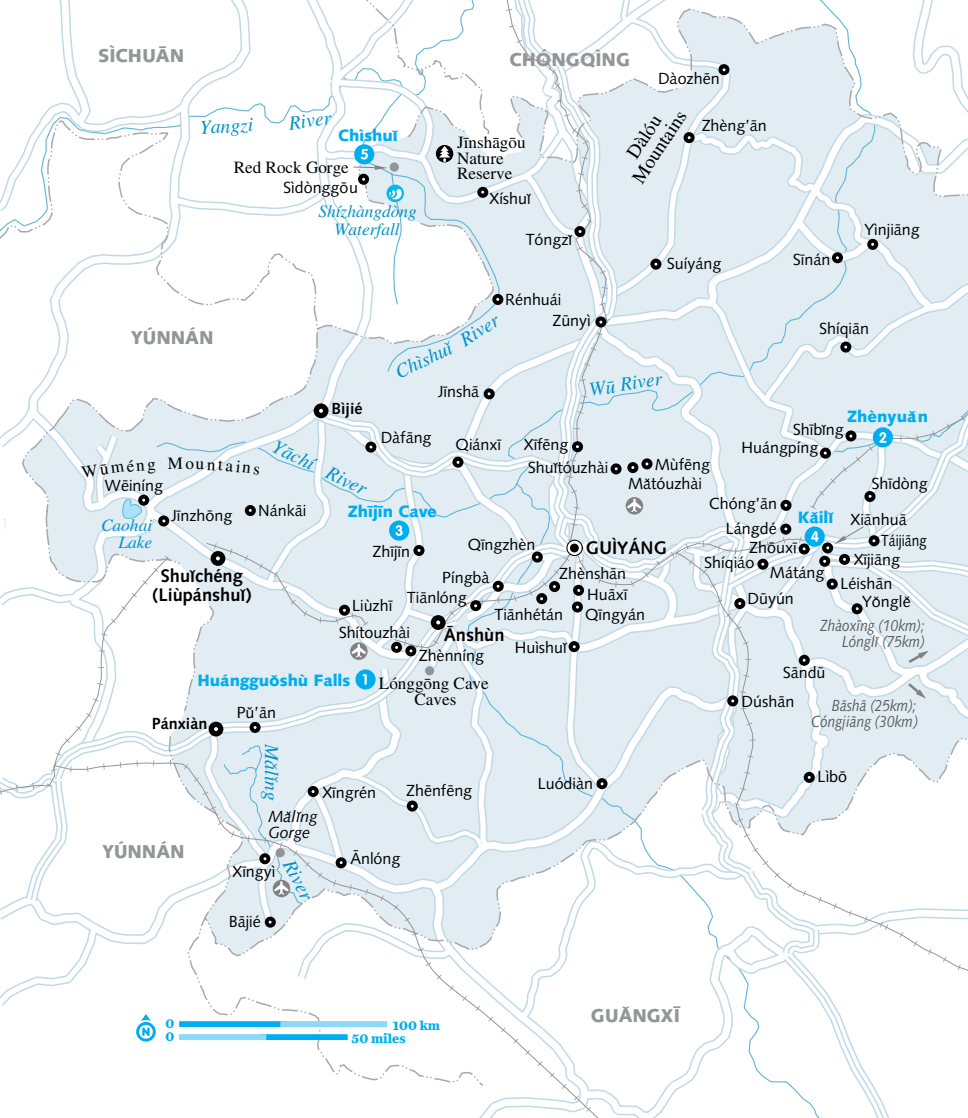
Guiyang



Jan Follow the birdsong to Cǎohǎi Lake, where birdwatchers flock each winter.

Jul & Aug Immerse yourself in the spray of 4000 waterfalls emerging from a bamboo forest.

Oct & Nov Toast the Miao New Year in the traditional villages around Kǎilǐ.



Guizhōu Highlights

- 1 Huangguoshù Falls** (p654) Rafting in the wash of China's largest waterfall, and hiking the nearby region.
- 2 Zhènyuǎn** (p649) River-cruising through a charming 2000-year-old settlement.
- 3 Zhījīn Cave** (p654) Descending into the spectacular largest cavern in China.
- 4 Kǎilǐ** (p646) Hopping between the Miao villages located around here.
- 5 Chishuǐ** (p657) Getting way off the beaten track in prehistoric fern forests.
- 6 Festivals** (p644) Partying with the locals at one of the thousand-odd celebrations held in Guizhōu each year.