



*Red Clothes Festival*

### Red Clothes Festival

This festival, which is peculiar to the Hongyao people in Longsheng, falls on the 15th day of the third lunar month. During the festival, all the Hongyao people in full dress attend a solemn gathering held in Sishui Street and exchange local products with each other. Unmarried young people sing folk songs and blow leaves to express their affections to their lovers. In addition, the Yao people do Long Drum Dance, hold the long hair competition, select the most beautiful girl of the village, and attend the "catching fireworks competition for women." Now the Red Clothes Festival has become an important ethnic festival of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

### Ziyuan River-lantern Festival

From the 13th to 15th day

in the seventh lunar month every year, all the ethnic minority people float lanterns (paper boats with lit candles) on the Ziyang River. When floating lanterns on the river, the people on both banks sing folk songs to recall the past events, express feelings, tell stories or give comments. It is the river-lantern festival. During the festival, the county seat is crowded with people in various ethnic clothes from far and near. They perform dragon and lion dances, play local operas, do shopping, sell mountain products, sing songs and look for lovers, enjoying themselves to their hearts content. The people in Ziyuan County have celebrated the River-lantern Festival for nearly 400 years. In recent years, the festival has attracted a large number of domestic and foreign tourists.

*Miao girls in their holiday best*

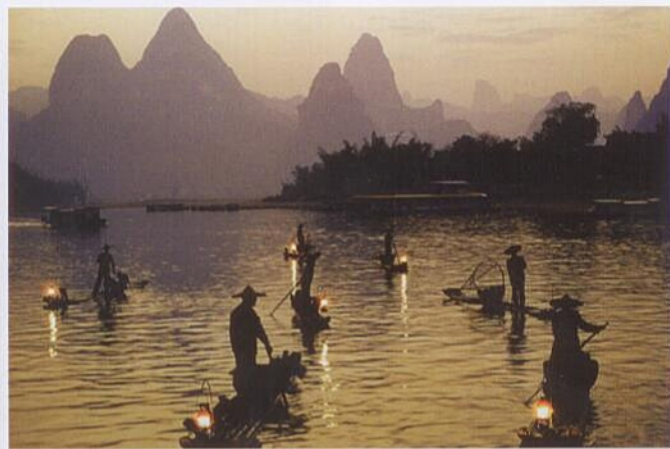


*Beauty competition*

### Yangshuo Fishing-boat Lights Festival

This festival originated from going fishing by fishermen on the Lijiang River. At the foot of Green Lotus Peak in Yangshuo lies a deep and wide river, which teems with fish. Local fishermen went fishing at nightfall, and placed lanterns at the head of the bamboo rafts to attract fish. When fish gathered around the lanterns, they let cormorants to catch fish. At dusk, lights on fishing boats on the river and the green peaks in the distance formed a unique scenic sight. With the passage of time, local fishermen began to celebrate the Fishing-boat Lights Festival. During the festival, the "lights on fishing boats on the Lijiang River," "fireworks

*Yangshuo Fishing-boat Lights Festival*



set off on both banks," and "bonfires on the river shoals" add radiance and beauty with each other, in addition to the folk theatrical performances in the square, the beer competition at West Street, the exhibitions of fine arts, calligraphic



*West Street*

works and photos, and various sports events, making the county seat become a great rejoicing sea. The Fishing-boat Lights Festival on the Lijiang River is held in autumn every year and lasts three days.

# Touch Guilin



## The Best Travel Time

Located in the subtropical zone, Guilin is a tourism city known for its natural scenery, with flowers all the year round. It rarely snows in winter. The best time to visit Guilin is from April to October every year, and the rainy season starts from March when the weather is warm, featur-

## Local Flavor

### Rice Noodles

Though Guilin serves a wide variety of delicious foods from all over the country, the local people are keen on rice noodles. Everyday, several hundred thousand local people in Guilin eat rice noodles for breakfast, and some people even take rice noodles as orthodox and convenient dinners. More often than not, the Guilin people would formally introduce rice noodles to their friends from afar. It is a common understanding in Guilin that those who have not eaten rice noodles cannot say they have been to Guilin. If you want to have a good understanding of the lifestyle of the Guilin people, you'd better go to the rice noodle restaurants in the early morning, where you may see how the local people eat rice noodles with various kinds of toppings, such as pot-stewed meat, vegetables and tender sirloin.



*Fish in the Lijiang River in the morning*

ing sufficient sunshine, colorful flowers in full bloom, luxuriant trees, limpid rivers, high mountains surrounded by white clouds and melodious fishermen's songs heard everywhere. The colorful and intriguing landscapes last until the end of October when osmanthus flowers are in full bloom.



*Rice noodles*

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Average temperature (°C)	8	9	13	18	23	26	28	27	25	20	15	10
Precipitation (mm)	54	71	126	284	252	316	233	164	64	101	79	54



*A wind-and-rain bridge of the Dong People*

### Stone Carvings

Stone carvings left by the past ages can be found in all the mountains in Guilin. The stone carvings of the Sui (581-618) and Tang (618-907) include calligraphic works, paintings and bas relieves, of which many were the works by the celebrities in Chinese history. Probably influenced by the art of stone carvings, the Guilin people show great interest in calligraphy and works of fine arts. Many pre-school children of Guilin won top prizes at the international competitions, and shops selling calligraphic works, paintings and arts and crafts can be seen everywhere in the city. Hence stone carvings in the scenic areas of Guilin are important component parts of Guilin local culture. Tourists should pay attention to the stone inscriptions when doing sightseeing in Guilin.

### Ethnic Culture

The counties in Guilin are home to different ethnic groups, and they still keep their own cultural traditions and festivals now. The stockade buildings of the Zhuangs, and the wind-and-rain bridges and drum tower of the Dongs are visual arts with ethnic characteristics, which have exerted a great influence on the culture of the Han people. The Flower Bridge in the Seven-Star Park shows the features of the Dong architectures.



*Panwang Festival*

## Festivals and Celebrations

### Panwang Festival

Panwang Festival of the Yao people, which falls on the 16th day of the 10th lunar month, is a festival to commemorate Panwang, the founder of the Yao people. During the festival, all the Yao people, men and women, old and young, in their holiday

best get together happily to sing *Panwang Song*, and do Huangni Dance and Long Drum Dance to praise highly the merits and virtues of their ancestor. *Panwang Song* is a collection of the Yao songs, with rich contents. It requires the Yao people to sing seven days and seven nights to finish singing all the songs. Long Drum Dance includes Panwang Dance, Soldier and General Dance and Sword Dance, with complicated, powerful, unadorned and changeable movements to show how the Yao people open up wasteland, fell trees and go hunting. Young people take this opportunity to start singing in antiphonal style, trying to find their lovers.

*Take a photo with Yao people*

