Guizhou Information

Overview

Guizhou is located in the southwest of China. The capital, Guiyang, is located in the center of the province. It is a highly diverse province demographically. With 39,040,000 people it is a mid-range province in terms of population, ranking 15th in the nation of China. Close to 40% of the population is comprised of Chinese ethnic minorities (see demographics). The region totals nearly 68,000 sq mi (176,000 sq km) making it the nation’s 16th largest. It is considered one of China’s poorest and most desolate provinces.

Guizhou Geography

Guizhou has a rough topography: 97% of it is mountainous or hilly. Most of the province is at least 3,300 ft. (appr. 1,000 m) in altitude. The karst topography is some of the most breathtaking in the world. The province’s largest lake, Qingzhen, is just to the west of Guiyang. The Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau creeps in from the west and slopes downward throughout the province. Sichuan Province sits on the western half of the northern border while Chongqing Municipality rests on the eastern half. Yunnan is situated to the west of the province and Hunan to the east. Guangxi is to the south.

Guizhou Demographics

Guizhou is one of the country’s most diverse provinces. Han Chinese make up only 62% of the population with the Miao coming in second with 12%. Buyi are 8% and the Dong comprise 5%. Tujia compose 4% and the Yi half of that totaling 2%. The Gelao and Shui make up 2% and 1% respectively. Another 2% of the population is unidentified.

Guizhou History

Guizhou was known to greater China for many years but was not annexed until the Ming Dynasty (1368 AD – 1644 AD). Natives, primarily the Miao, fought the massive influx of Han Chinese from neighboring provinces for the rest of the Ming Dynasty and on through the Qing Dynasty (1644 AD – 1912 AD) allowing it to retain one of the highest ethnic diversities in the country.

Guizhou Industry

Guizhou is a poor province. Its per capita income ranks the lowest in all of China. Its major industries are forestry, energy, and mining (mostly coal). Electric- power generation is a large component of Guizhou’s economy but the majority of the power created is transported to the Guangdong province. Due to the Huangguoshu Falls, the largest waterfall in China and the site in Zunyi, where Mao Zedong asserted dominance in the Communist Party during the 1935 conference, there is an increase in tourism, but it is surprisingly sparse for the region’s beauty and broad ethnic diversity.