Four-Day Post-Fam Trip Itinerary-5

Date & Time:
Sunday, November 12: 08:30 a.m. pick-up
Wednesday, November 15: 12:00 p.m. drop-off

Route:
D1: Guiyang city --- Anshun city --- Tianlong Ancient Garrison Town --- 24-Zig --- Hotel
D2: Huangguoshu Waterfall --- Hotel
D3: Guiyang city --- Kaili city --- Kaili Minority Museum --- Upper Langde Miao village
D4: Guiyang Flower & Bird Market

Day One
Tianlong Ancient Garrison Town

Among such stone castles, Tianlong Tunpu, 72 kilometers west of Guiyang, is the best-preserved one. Since the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368), Tianlong had been an important military fortress, guarding a major gateway to the southwestern Chinese province of Yunnan. So the first emperor of Ming dynasty stationed troops for both defense and land reclamation. Today, over 5000 people in 1,250 households, continue to live in Tianlong Tunpu. Being the descendants of the imperial Ming Dynasty garrison troops, Tunpu people have maintained their traditional customs and way of life from the Ming Dynasty, in a kind of "lost world" environment. The military elements in the design of Tianlong are readily apparent. At the time, stone was the toughest material readily available. With high walls and narrow lanes, the village is a labyrinth for any first-time visitor, offering residents a distinct advantage in any in-village fighting. Tunpu people build their houses not only for living but also for defense. The houses are made of solid stones, with black tile roofs and white walls - the typical southern housing style. Shooting holes are found at all sides of the buildings, and sentry towers are scattered in the villages.
24-Zig along the Burma Road in Qinglong

“The “24-zig” is in Guizhou Province, it has 24 sharp bends on a high mountain. The Burma Road was largely built by Chinese during World War II to bring supplies to China, to help Chinese resist the Japanese invasion.

People can see a famous old photo on websites about World War II: convoys of US GMC military trucks snaking up a steep zigzag road in southwest China’s mountainous region. It illustrates the crucial lifeline that linked the Chinese battlefield with allied forces 57 years ago. The road, nicknamed “24-zig” because it has 24 sharp bends on a high mountain, was believed to lie on the famous Stilwell Road, also known as the Burma Road. Along the road, mountains of guns, bullets and food were carried by US trucks to China to fight against the Japanese troops. The “24-zig” was so geologically typical and a symbol of the times that its fame was soon spread worldwide by the international media.

However, after the war ended half a century ago, the precise location of the “24-zig” faded from memory. Many Chinese, Japanese and Westerners tried to pinpoint it along the Stilwell Road and the Burma Road in Yunnan Province, but it seemed to have disappeared off the face of the earth. Yes, the 24-zig is in Guizhou!

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Day Two

Huangguoshu Waterfall

Huangguoshu Waterfall locates on the Baishui River at Zhenning Buyi and Miao Ethnic Minority Autonomous County. It is the largest waterfall in China and Asia. Huangguoshu Waterfall got its name because of a local plant, namely, the Yellow Fruit Tree. It is famous for its greatness and the ranges of waterfalls. Huangguoshu Waterfall is the greatest one among them, which is 101 meters wide, with a drop of 77.8 meters. The waterfall can be appreciated from different positions. As early as in the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644), the geologist Xu Xiake highly praised the Huangguoshu Waterfall.

Day Three

Kaili Minority Museum, Upper Langde Miao village

As one of the most fascinating ethnic minorities in China, groups of Miao people are everywhere in southwest China, mostly in Guizhou Province. But, if you really want to experience the authentic ethnic cultures, go visit Langde Miao Ethnic Minority Village in Kaili.

Miao Ethnic Minority is both mysterious and exciting. The Miao people are identified by their dialect, dress, location and other customs. In dress we have Long Skirt Miao, Short Skirt Miao, Black Miao, Flowery Miao and Long Horned Miao. By location there are River Miao and Mountain Miao. The villagers in Langde wear long skirts; hence they are nicknamed as "Long Skirt Miao".
Day Four

Qianling Hill Park

Qianling Hill Park is situated on Qianling Hill and covers an area of 1052.7 acres about a mile from the center of Guiyang. Built in 1957, this unique large park is rated as a 4A National Tourist Attraction. Hailed as one of the noted gardens on the Guizhou plateau, it boasts clear water, green mountains, tranquil forests and old temples. There are eight predominant scenic locations here: Sanlingwan, Macaque Garden, Hongfu Temple, Kylin Cave, the Zoo, Qianling Lake, Two-Dam Wind-Rain Bridge, and the Winding Mountain Path.

Hongfu Temple: Hongfu Temple, a temple of majesty and sobriety, was originally built in 1667 and is believed as the largest temple of Zen Buddhism in Guizhou Province. “Hongfu” means to develop Buddha’s spirits and to benefit mankind. Today it is rated as one of the 142 National Key Temple Scenic Areas as well as the Key Cultural Relic in Guizhou Province.