



A GUIDE TO THE
BULANG PEOPLE

Bulang are thought to have descended from an Ancient tribe that lived in the Mekong river valley. As the more dominant Tai peoples migrated through the areas, Bulang tribes moved up into the security of the mountains. Vestiges of old Bulang culture still exist in their black skirts or pants with blue tops, with women wearing black or white turbans and showing their betel nut stained black teeth as a sign of beauty.



Most Bulang peoples live high in the mountains west of the Mekong River in Southwest China's Yunnan province.



Most of the year, working age Bulang spend their time in the tea fields and processing facilities.



In addition to drinking tea, many are hopelessly addicted to alcohol and gambling, and more recently opiate and prescription drugs.



Most Bulang in Yunnan's Xishuangbanna prefecture and in Myanmar are Buddhist Animists. Outside of these areas, most are Animistic or engage in Ancestor worship.



There is no Bible in any of the Bulang languages, so the 50 or so scattered believers rely on Mandarin Chinese bibles or oral Bible stories.



Bulang have a very high respect for their elders and culture, which often prevents them from responding to the Gospel.



Because of their locations high in the mountains, Bulang have historically been tea producers. In modern times, they are famous both for their production of very expensive green teas, and fermented teas.