



A GUIDE TO THE
ZHUANG PEOPLE

The Zhuang were part of a Tai related group of people covering a large area of southern China over 2,000 years ago. They were recorded as living in Guangxi when the unification of China took place and prefectures and counties were set up in 213 BC. As the Han Chinese moved into southern China, the Zhuang were forced out of their fertile lands into the mountainous regions.



20 Million Zhuang. Mostly located in Guangxi province in Southern China.



Their language consists of 16 mutually unintelligible dialects of the Tai family.



Christianity - estimated about 0.5% of the entire population of 20 million.



Practice wet-rice cultivation in rural areas. Economic development has resulted in better infrastructure and increased trade.



Most Zhuang follow a traditional animist faith which include elements of shamanism as well as ancestor worship.



Witchcraft, magic, and mediums are still a part of rural life. Many in the cities have also become atheists.



“Harmonious living” is the Zhuang’s highest virtue. The Zhuang also love music. The most famous form of singing is their antiphonal style in which the singers exchange short musical sentences.