

## SUBREGION

### FACTS

<b>Language:</b>	Southwestern Mandarin, Pinghua, Zhuang
<b>Religion:</b>	Budhism, Taoism, Animism
<b>Climate:</b>	humid, subtropical
<b>Topography:</b>	mountainous

### INTRODUCTION

Longji is located in Longsheng County, in northeastern Guangxi. It was the earliest county to be established in southern China. Longsheng's main attraction, not far out of town, is the Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces. There are about 66 square kilometers terraced fields in northeast of Longsheng.

### CLIMATE

Situated in sub-tropical zone; monsoon climate with sufficient rainfall and frost-free of 314 days. Located in the northeastern part of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, belongs to Central Asian sub-tropical climate. The average temperature is 20, increasing from North to South and decreasing from valley plains to mountainous region, West Guangxi higher than East Guangxi, and with an annual rainfall of 1890 mm.

The climate of North Guangxi likes that of mountainous region is varied, and catastrophic weather frequently happens. In Guangxi monsoon is often changeable, so rainfall and temperature also vary much, and then catastrophic weather such as drought and flood, as well as typhoon and hailstone frequently happen. East Guangxi often has autumn drought, with appearing rate of 50% to 70%; In spring and autumn rainy season, affected by colder air from Northern region, almost every year there occur inverting spring cold in spring and cold dew wind in autumn, damaging agriculture. Each year, from April to July, heavy wind occurs, badly affecting large areas.

### GEOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Longsheng town is situated in a densely forested area of over 2442 square kilometres, inhabited by Yao, Miao, Dong, Zhuang and Han people, with a population of only 160 000 persons. It is surrounded by mountains in four sides, as well as in the joint area of Heping River and Sang River. Continuous mountains not only produce rich plants, animals, and minerals, but also

created sceneries such as the Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces.

The Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces is 27 kilometers from Longsheng County, and it is 80 kilometers from Guilin city. The total area of this scenic spot is 66 square kilometers, 1014 hectares. from the river valley of torrent to the top of the hills. The terraced fields are built along the slope winding from the riverside up to the mountaintop, with the highest place of an elevation of 885m and the lowest 380m and with sloping grades between 26 degrees and 35 degrees. The steepest slope is 50 degrees.

### RELIGION

Most Zhuangs follow a traditional animist/ancestor-oriented religion, however, there are a number of Buddhists, Daoists, Christians, and Muslims in Guangxi as well.

The Zhuangs practise the worship to the nature, and the ancestor. In every village there is a Local Temple, where the forces of the nature are venerated, and a Temple of the Earth, where the ancestors are venerated. They think that every phenomena has a spirit, this way there exists for them the God of the Sol, The Master of the Thunder, the God of the Wind and that of the Rain. Of them the most important is the Master of the Thunder, who governs the world and distributes the rain to the men. Every thing on the land also has a spirit for them, every mountain, every tree, every flower, has a spirit.

In this mythological thought the most important god is Buluotou, creator of the sky and of the land, and everything what exists in it, but once ended the creative process, this god has not anymore a direct influence in the daily life of the people. The Chinese religions came to the lands Zhuang during the dynasty Tang. Since then they coexist with traditional religions. There are also priests Buddhists and Taoists between them, and in the majority of the villages there are celebrated the partys of these religions.

### MOBILITY

Population migration in Guangxi is marked by the rural labor force flowing to nearby cities, and by out-migrants outnumbering in-migrants. The sex ratio is low among inter-provincial migrants and high among inter-regional migrants. Migration occurs primarily as a result of job seeking or doing business, with other causes, being family reunion, studying and training, work transfer and visiting friends or relatives.



Pic. 1: view over terraced rice fields in longji region

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### Images:

Pic.-Nr. 1: Jan Flemmig

### Literature:

### Websites:

<http://www.chinaviva.com/Zhuang/zhuangreligion.htm>  
<http://www.itsaboutchina.com/longji.htm>  
<http://www.travelchinaguide.com/attraction/guangxi/longsheng/dragon.htm>  
[http://chri2neux.free.fr/chine\\_longji.htm](http://chri2neux.free.fr/chine_longji.htm)  
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