

壮族

The zhuang



壮族是中国人口最多的一个少数民族。广西壮族自治区是他们的的主要居住区，少数分布在云南、广东、湖南、贵州等省份。

The Zhuang, the most populous minority group of China, mainly live in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, with a small number distributed in Yunnan, Guangdong, Hunan and Guizhou provinces, etc.

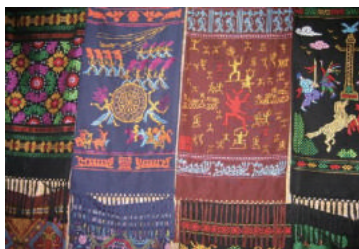
壮族聚集区为岭南西部，那里气候温和，雨量充沛，多热带、亚热带作物。农产品有水稻、玉米、薯类等。这里地形奇特，风景如画，名扬天下的桂林山水更是吸引了来自世界各地的游客。

The mass of the Zhuang people live in the west Lingnan area, which has a moderate climate and sufficient rainfall, and abounds with tropical and sub-tropical crops. The agricultural products include rice, corn, sweet potatoes and so forth. This place has both spectacular terrains and picturesque scenery; particularly the world famous landscape of Guilin, which attracts tourists from all over the world.

壮族在历史发展的过程中，创造了瑰丽多彩的文化艺术。早在春秋战国时期，壮族人就能制造铜鼓。铜鼓既是乐器，也是权利和财富的象征，人们常在宗教活动或喜庆的节日里敲奏它，并伴以歌舞。久负盛名的壮锦是壮族妇女独创的手工艺品，壮锦用色彩鲜艳的棉、丝、绒线织成，图案非常美丽、别致。壮族人家里的被面、台布、门帘、坐垫、手提袋等用品，很多是用壮锦做成的。

The Zhuang people have created colorful culture and art. As early as the Spring and Autumn period and the Warring States period (770-221 BC), the Zhuang people produced bronze drums, which were not

1. 身着民族服装的壮族妇女
Zhuang lady women in their traditional costume



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only musical instruments but also a symbol of power and wealth. Such drums are often played and accompanied with singing and dancing in religious rituals or celebration days. Zhuang brocade, a special kind of handcraft product created by the Zhuang women and having long enjoyed a great reputation, is woven with cotton, silk and floss threads of bright color in exquisite patterns. Many quilt covers, tablecloths, door curtains, cushions, handbags and the like in this region are made of Zhuang brocade.

美丽富饶的壮乡，素有“歌海”的美誉，“三月三歌圩节”是壮族人传统的歌节。每到歌节，方圆数十里的男女青年，都穿上盛装，聚集到山坡上，对唱山歌，用唱歌来表达爱情，结交朋友，祈求风调雨顺、五谷丰登。

The Zhuang people like to sing folk songs. The Antiphonal Song Day is a traditional Zhuang singing festival, which is held around the third day of the third month each year in Chinese lunar calendar. On this occasion, young men and women who live within a certain distance of one another dress in their most splendid attire and gather on hillsides to sing in antiphonal style. Through these songs, people express love, make friends, and pray for good weather and a good harvest.

壮族人崇拜巨石、老树、高山、土地、龙蛇和祖先等。牛魂节是壮族及侗族、瑶族等民族的节日。牛魂节在春耕以后举行。人们给牛放假一天，把牛栏修整一新，并蒸制糯米饭喂牛，体现了壮族人敬牛、爱牛的传统。

The Zhuang people worship big stones, old trees, lofty mountains, land, dragons, snakes, their ancestors and so forth. The Festival of the Ox Souls is peculiar to people of the Zhuang, Dong, Yao and other ethnic groups. This festival is held after the spring plowing. The oxen and cows will have a good rest and be fed with cooked glutinous rice in five colors and fresh grass for one day, and the cowsheds will be repaired that day. This festival showcases the tradition of the Zhuang people's respect and love for oxen.

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刘三姐：刘三姐是壮族民间传说人物。相传为唐代壮族农家女，聪明伶俐，12岁能自编自唱，歌声优美动人。壮族人民尊她为“歌仙”，至今还有“如今广西歌成海，都是三姐亲口传”的传颂。

Liu Sanjie: Liu Sanjie was a legendary girl of folklore, who came from a peasant Zhuang family during the Tang Dynasty. She was very smart, able to compose and sing songs by herself at the age of 12. The Zhuang people respectfully call her the Fairy Singer, and a saying still goes among the populace that "Now Guangxi is a sea of songs, which are all taught by Sanjie herself."

1. 壮族壮锦

Zhuang brocade

2. 桂林山水实景中演出的《刘三姐》

Liu Sanjie in the scene of Guilin landscape (a film still)



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