



2025 WORKCAMP

No	Code	Project Name	Location	Dates	Vols
1	DWC-01-25	Preserving Cultural Heritage in Filigree Silver Handicraft	Leishan, Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, Guizhou	Oct 10 – 24	6

- About DreamWalker China -

DreamWalker China (DWC) is a social purpose organization that believes everyone can make positive contribution and change to their own personal development, as well as to global development, through international voluntary service and sustainable changemaking actions. We collaborate with and support both local and overseas communities, social enterprises, and innovative charities to not only foster a world of global citizens and changemakers, but also plant the seed for a united and peaceful world.

- Workcamp Basics -

Language: The main language of all DreamWalker's workcamps is English. We recommend our volunteers to learn some basic greetings in Chinese.

Basic Volunteer Requirements: Since English is the language used in all our workcamps, it is important for volunteers to know enough simple English for basic communication and interaction with other volunteers. Other than that, a passion in voluntary work and respect for cultural differences are crucial to having a good time during the workcamp. Volunteers should be open-minded, adaptable and have a learning mindset. They should be friendly and willing to work as a team.

Insurance: DWC will purchase basic insurance that covers accidents during the workcamp only, and so, please also self-prepare health and travel insurance that suits your own needs.

Applications: Please send applications to us at dreamwalkerchina@gmail.com.

- Project Descriptions -

Project Name: Preserving Cultural Heritage in Filigree Silver Handicraft
Code: DWC-01-25

Project Type: Art; Cultural, Study Theme

Project Dates: October 10th to 24th, 2025 (15 days)

Number of Participants: 6

Location: Kongbai Village, Leishan County, Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, Guizhou Province

Closest Airport: Guiyang Longdongbao International Airport (KWE)

Participation Fee: 3500 RMB (~425 EURO)

Project Needs:

The **Miao** are one of the 56 official ethnic groups in China and are known for their handmade unique silver ornaments, which they wear to ward off evil or for attracting good fortune. With over 400 years of history and was listed as a Chinese national intangible cultural heritage in 2006, the traditional craftsmanship of **Miao silver** is the living expressions of creativity, skills, and knowledge passed down through generations. The silver handicrafts are not merely object or artifacts, but they reflect the cultural values, belief, way of life, history and the diverse identities of the Miao ethnic group. However, due to industrial production of silver handicraft in the market, a decrease in the market demand for traditional Miao silver, as well as a growing number of young Miao people moving to the cities to pursue higher incomes, the inheritance of Miao silver craftsmanship is encountering difficulties. Kongbai village is a famous silversmith village in Leishan County, with many villagers knowing how to forge silver jewelry, but ironically, not many of them actually stay in the village. Furthermore, despite the artistic appearance of the Miao silver, the complex design and techniques are becoming less suitable to modern lifestyle and hard to compete with the fast-paced commercial industries. It is important to preserve the craftsmanship since the handicraft not only serve as cultural identity for the Miao, but also have education value in teaching the younger generations about history, culture, and traditional skills. The handicrafts also have significant economic potential in sustainable cultural tourism and can act as a bridge in cultural exchanges, fostering understanding and appreciation between different culture.

Project Aims:

- Promote, preserve, and sustain Miao silver craftsmanship: It is important to ensure the skills and technique of silver filigree, as well as the history of the craftsmanship can be passed down to the next generation by documenting and researching the techniques, stories, and cultural significance of the craft.
- Aid in the sustainable development of rural village through cultural tourism empowerment: Cultural tours/workshops with Chinese and English guides/handbook will be designed and created by participants to help the transmission of Miao culture and silver filigree skills, allowing locals to better share with future visitors.
- Encourage the international exchange of ideas/stories/history/etc from different countries to generate new innovative silver designs that are practical and adaptive of the modern world, but still retain the Miao traditional characteristics and essence.

Meals and Accommodation:

Meals will be prepared by the local villagers based on the local seasonal vegetables available. Two participants per room with basic bedding available. Sleeping bags are not needed.

Participants should bring their own basic toiletries, in-door slipper, towels, etc. WIFI signal may be weak in the village.

Work/Activities:

- In-depth hands-on learning and practice of filigree silver crafts
 - Technique Learning: Under the guidance of the local experienced teacher, participants will learn the core skills of silver smelting, wire drawing, filigree, welding, etc. and make a traditional Miao silver jewelry (ex. earring). Participants will help record, take pictures, and document the whole production process so that the craft will be able to be past to future generations.
 - Innovative design: After learning the techniques of filigree silver, participants' creativity are pull together to create 3 new jewelry designs that will incorporate both traditional Miao totem elements, as well as modern international concepts. The new designs will be shared and discussed with the local villagers and may be used for charity sale, promoting local cultural heritage and/or supporting sustainable village development.
- Development of Chinese and English cultural tour guides in promoting the silver craft and the local village culture/history. Participants will assist by:
 - Researching village handicrafts, folklore, history, and natural/scenic landscapes
 - Planning/designing one-day or half-day cultural/eco-tour routes of the village
 - Production of the tour guides
 - Writing Chinese and English descriptions/introductions of scenic spots, folklores, silver handicrafts of the village
 - Taking pictures or drawing illustrations to help promote the village culture/history/handicraft
- Cultural exchange with local villagers and other participants
 - Cultural Night will be organized to share with local villagers and participants about the different country's culture (language, music, food, handicraft, etc)
 - Create and share videos of the village and on silver pedigree on social media to share with the world and to increase public awareness about their importance.

Volunteer's Requirement:

- Strong interest in traditional handicrafts, cultural heritage protection, and cross-cultural sharing
- Adaptable to basic living conditions in remote areas
- Respectful to local culture and ethnic customs
- Background in art design, cultural studies, anthropology, or tourism are ideal but not required.

Photos:



