

The Bridges of Dong County

From Nanning I headed north past Guilin to the Dragon's Backbone rice terraces, a scenic location of rice terraces and wooden villages. From there I headed west in to the area populated by the Dong minority group. The Dong are famous for the there wooded buildings and covered "wind and rain" bridges built entirely of wood without the use of nails. The most famous of these bridges is in the town of Chengyang, my first destination in the Dong region. As picturesque as the region is there relatively little tourism due in part to the poor roads in the area. But there are attempts to remedy this and many of the roads were under construction and the town of Chengyang was putting in new pathways in what looked like an attempt to get ready of the inevitable onslaught of tour buses that will descend on the



Village, Dragon's Backbone rice terraces.



Dragon's Backbone rice terraces.

quite little town from Guilin once the road is finished. As it is today, while one of the more touristy towns the region, it is still relatively little visited compared to the Guilin-Yangshou region to the south. I was one of 3 independent foreigner tourists in town. Remarkably, the one of the others, an Australian named Matt, is a recently graduated electrical engineer heading on a very similar trip to myself. Although since he has got an Australian passport he can get into Iran. But we are both planning on heading in to Nepal from Tibet at the end of September and eventually on into India. So no doubt I'll be running into him again later in my trip.



**Spider in my room,
about the size of my
hand, in a village by the
Dragon's Backbone rice
terraces.**



**Dragon fly either
mating or eating I can't
quite tell, Chengyang.**



View of Chengyang.



Covered Dong bridge at Chengyang.



**Dong wooden houses,
Chengyang.**



**Kid having a drink
across from me at a
small shop in
Chengyang.**