



**Population in China:**  
 13,300 (1999)  
 13,630 (2000)  
 17,100 (2010)  
**Location:** Yunnan  
**Religion:** Polytheism  
**Christians:** 10

## Overview of the Xiqi

**Countries:** China

**Pronunciation:** "Shee-chee"

**Other Names:** Siqi

**Population Source:**

13,300 (1999 J. Pelkey);  
 Out of a total Yi population of  
 6,572,173 (1990 census)

**Location:** *Yunnan:* Huanning County of Yuxi Prefecture: Tonghongdian, Panxi, Chengjiao, Huaxi and Qinglong districts; Some "Siqi" live in northern Panjiang District of Jianshui County in Honghe Prefecture.

**Status:**

Officially included under Yi

**Language:** Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Burmese-Lolo, Lolo, Northern Lolo, Yi, Southeastern Yi

**Dialects:** 0

**Religion:** Polytheism, Animism, Ancestor Worship

**Christians:** 10

**Scripture:** None

**Jesus film:** None

**Gospel Recordings:** None

**Christian Broadcasting:** None

**ROPAL code:** None



Jamin Pelkey

**Location:** More than 13,000 Xiqi (pronounced "Shee-chee") people live in the Zhuoqi Mountains of Huanning County in central Yunnan Province. In Tonghongdian District, the Xiqi live mainly in the villages of Suomeizao and Dapozuo. In Panxi District the Xiqi inhabit the area in and around Yide, Fagao, Dayaxi, and Longtanying villages. In Huaxi District the Xiqi can be found in and around Xishajing and Dujiacun villages. Some Xiqi also live in Shanzhi and Qize villages in south central Qinglong District. Others live on Denglou Mountain in Chengjiao District. All of these places are in Yuxi Prefecture. In addition, "the only hint of Xiqi living in Honghe Prefecture is a people referred to as 'Siqi' living in northern Panjiang District [Jianshui County], neighboring a Xiqi area of Huanning County."<sup>1</sup>

**Identity:** The Xiqi are one of more than 100 distinct tribes or people groups among the official Yi nationality in China. The name Yi was created by the government in the 1950s as a generic term that covers many Tibeto-Burman speaking groups in China.

**Language:** Little is known about the Xiqi language except that it is part of the Southeastern Yi group of languages.

**History:** Although now hidden in obscurity, the Xiqi were some of the earliest people to arrive in the region during the Yuan Dynasty (twelfth century AD). Before the seventeenth

century Yunnan was largely controlled by non-Han peoples. As early as the Han Dynasty (206 BC – AD 220) the Chinese rulers tried to gain control of Yunnan in order to have unrestricted land access to India and Southeast Asia. Around 100 BC armed conflict erupted between China and the Ailao Kingdom when the latter refused to allow an emissary of Emperor Wu Di to enter its territory.

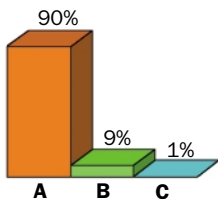
**Customs:** A small number of Xiqi women have gained

employment in recent years making embroidered hats, clothing, and bags for the Huanning Trading Corporation, which sells the items all around the world. The extra income is a welcome relief for the Xiqi who are mostly impoverished farmers living very hard lives. For centuries the ability to sew and embroider has been important in Xiqi communities. Young men were attracted to a woman depending on her ability with the needle. Many Xiqi families keep pigs, poultry, and water buffaloes.

**Religion:** The majority of Xiqi are polytheists. They believe protective spirits live inside sacred trees. No one is allowed to harm or cut these trees, as that would bring disaster on the community. Offerings of food and sacrifices of animals are made at the foot of the tree trunk to ensure peace and prosperity for the entire village. The Xiqi also worship their ancestors, believing this will ensure a better existence for the dead person's soul.

**Christianity:** Despite their long history, a mere handful of Xiqi people are known to believe in Jesus Christ. They meet in one small church along with some Han Chinese believers. There are a small number of Christians among the Ati people in Huanning, but their presence has had minimal influence on the linguistically similar Xiqi. Because this group has never been documented before, no evangelistic tools have been produced in their language.

### Status of Evangelization



**A** = Have never heard the gospel  
**B** = Were evangelized but did not become Christians  
**C** = Are adherents to any form of Christianity