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the speech of their Mishaba Laluo neighbors.¹ The Jiantou Laluo language still enjoys vigorous use and is not immediately endangered.

History: Little is known about the history of the Jiantou Laluo. Because they have no written language, no records have been kept of their migrations and experiences.

Customs: Jiantou Laluo women retain their traditional dress, “which is predominantly green with intricate embroidery and silver-colored sequins plotted out pleasantly on their blouses — all complimented by a unique headdress.”²

Religion: The Jiantou Laluo are animists. They seem to have something of a fixation on spiders and have several legends involving them. One states that long ago a group of Laluo girls hid in a cave to escape the evil advances of a group of soldiers. As soon as they entered the cave, a spider came down and spun a web over the cave entrance, prohibiting the soldiers from entering. In honor of the insects, many Jiantou Laluo women embroider patterns of spiders on their clothing and headdress.

Christianity: There are believed to be a few Jiantou Laluo Christians, meeting in the Three-Self church in Dali Township. The large majority of this group, however, are completely unaware of the existence of Christianity. Because of their Hui neighbors, they have had more exposure to Islam than to Christianity.



Population in China:
 30,000 (1999)
 30,750 (2000)
 38,600 (2010)
Location: Yunnan
Religion: Animism
Christians: 20

Overview of the Jiantou Laluo

- Countries:** China
- Pronunciation:** “Jeeuhn-tow-Lah-luoh”
- Other Names:** Laluo, Lalu, Laloba, Jiantou Lolo, Dongshan Yizu, Maganfang
- Population Source:** 30,000 (1999 J. Pelkey); Out of a total Yi population of 6,572,173 (1990 census)
- Location:** Yunnan: Weishan (15,000), Xiaguan (8,000), and Midu (7,000) counties
- Status:** Officially included under Yi
- Language:** Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Burmese-Lolo, Lolo, Northern Lolo, Yi, Western Yi
- Dialects:** 0
- Religion:** Animism, Ancestor Worship, Daoism, Christianity
- Christians:** 20
- Scripture:** None
- Jesus film:** None
- Gospel Recordings:** None
- Christian Broadcasting:** None
- ROPAL code:** None

Location: A total of 30,000 Jiantou Laluo live in three counties within the Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan Province. About half (15,000) live in Weishan County, 7,000 in Midu County, and 8,000 in Xiaguan County which encompasses the ancient town of Dali. The Jiantou Laluo mostly live in high mountains.

Identity: Although this group simply calls itself *Laluo* in their own language, the Chinese call them *Jiantou Yi* or *Jiantou Laluo* to distinguish them from the Mishaba Laluo who live in the same general area. *Jiantou* is a Chinese term meaning “cone head” and is applied to this group because of their custom of wearing large, cone-shaped turbans. Married Jiantou Laluo women also wear small, green ceramic cones

on their foreheads. Although the government has included the Jiantou Laluo as part of the Yi nationality, neighboring people do not consider them Yi. They call them *Maganfang*, after a place name in the Jiantou Laluo region. The Jiantou Laluo are a different ethnic and language group from the Mishaba Laluo.

Language: The Jiantou Laluo speak a Western Yi language. Although the Jiantou Laluo and the Mishaba Laluo both live near each other in Weishan County, their languages are so different that they must use Chinese to communicate. A group of Mishaba Laluo in Miaogai District said they could only understand about 40% of Jiantou Laluo vocabulary, although the Jiantou Laluo in Dacang District believe they can understand 80% of

