

terrain, from awesome mountain passes to lush golden meadows. Chile was a good country for the lone trekker to visit, its transportation system is good (bus and plane, not train) and the people were friendly and helpful.

I will definitely go back and would have no hesitation taking my family with me.

## EXPEDITION UPDATE

### CHINA Ged Campion

The Fengshan 2004 expedition in Oct /Nov was a follow up to the earlier China Caves Project expedition in Feb/March of that year.

Following the notable success of the earlier expedition in the Jiang Zhou system, and realizing the potential of this cave and the attractiveness of the surrounding karst features, the Fengshan local government had decided to put forward the area for designation as a national "geopark", and commissioned the Karst Institute in Guilin to complete a survey of the caves and study the karst in the area.

The prime objective of the expedition was to carry out this work for the Institute and Fengshan County and build on the successes of March trip.

The idea of a geopark is to afford some degree of protection to important geological sites which do not have the benefit of World Heritage Site status or some other form of protection.

The umbrella organisation, the "Global Network of Geoparks" established under the aegis of UNESCO, has set a target of establishing 300+ global geoparks, adding about 20 new sites every year.

At a national level China currently has 44 geoparks, 8 of which are on the global list and all of which are of national importance where tourism and scientific research are encouraged.

This was a China Caves Project expedition drawn mostly from the YRC and other northern clubs who have been exploring the karst in the north-west corner of Guangxi Province for the past 5 years.

The expedition was conducted over a period of a month with some of the team (11 UK members in total) there for the full period and others joining half way through the exploration.

The Jiang Zhou system was extended from its Spring 2004 limit of 7.5km to a new length of 29km, making it the longest cave in Guangxi and the third longest in China.

The cave system straddles Fengshan and Bama Counties in the Duyang Shan hills of Guangxi Province, about 24km south-south-west of Fengshan Town and roughly 50km to the west of the Hongshui river. The multi-entrance system lies under a typical tower karst landscape, with individual limestone towers rising to about 800m and the surrounding alluvial plains lying at about 300m. The main entrances and the fossil sections of the system lie between the 450 and 650m contours.

The nearest large village is Jiang Zhou, about 2km from the south-west edge of the system. One of the entrances to the system is within a few hundred metres of the village of Long Huai and another is just to the north of the scattered hamlet of Dalue.

The explored system comprises mainly very large fossil passages and chambers, the floors of which are often strewn with massive boulders or decorated with flowstone or stalagmite formations. The typical passage is 30-50m in width and of a similar height.

Underlying the fossil series is an extensive active cave system which can be accessed at various points from the fossil passages. The underground river passages, however, frequently sump and an extensive section of river passage has yet to be discovered.

The sheer scale and volume of the passages is awe inspiring and sporting trips to the far reaches of the cave involve 16 km return trips - not once having to revert to knees!

Other caves in the area were also explored, looking at the potential for system to the north and west of Jiang Zhou. Ma Wang Dong, explored in 1989 by the China Caves Projects, was revisited but a potential link to the relatively nearby Green River Cave eluded the team. The sinks and resurgences of the Qaiyin river system south east of Fengshan were also examined.

At one point this system reveals itself spectacularly as Chuan Long Dong (Factory Cave) in Fengshan Town.

A return trip to the area is planned for this year. The expedition was supported by the Yorkshire Ramblers Club and the Ghar Paru Foundation.

Team Members were:-

YRC - Bruce Bensley, Ged Campion, Alister Renton, Graham Salmon, Ernie Shield, together with Jane Butler.

Craven Pothole Club - Emma Porter and Mike Clayton.

Cleveland Speleo Group - Tony Harrison.

Scarborough Caving Club - Mike Peters.

Gloucester Speleo Club - Dave Appleing.

## LONG WALKS ON THE NORTH YORK MOORS

We all have our experiences of walking the Lyke Wake, White Rose or Cleveland Way walks and Jeff Hooper details his reminiscences later.

He talks of the his and the Club's crossings of the Lyke Wake in the middle of the last century when this walk progressed from a largely trackless one to one with a defined route. By the time I first did it in the early seventies it was in places, quite a good walk from one side of the track to the other: A veritable M1 of a muddy track.

The last time I did it was from west to east finishing up going north on the coast path to overnight in Whitby enjoying very welcome fish and chips, several beers, a bath and a very comfortable bed.

In the mid seventies Yorkshire Junior Chamber organised a long walk for charity but given the state that the LWW had deteriorated to by then, we elected for a variation.

We tackled the White Rose Walk just a few miles longer but on more interesting terrain.

Over 200 members set off but only about 80 finished. I entered a team of 8 from Ilkley Junior Chamber where I was President at the time but I was the only one who made it home and I was a bit worse for wear. My feet had become waterlogged and badly blistered and I had to take half an hour out at a first aid post, to have the blisters cut off and dressed before continuing.

The event was based from a large hotel and nearby campsite somewhere outside Middlesborough and we were bussed to Sutton Bank for the start and back from the finish with three alternate pick ups for those dropping out.

I do recall getting back fifteen hours after setting off and returning to the hotel to find a Saturday night disco getting underway, which I joined after a quick soak in the bath.