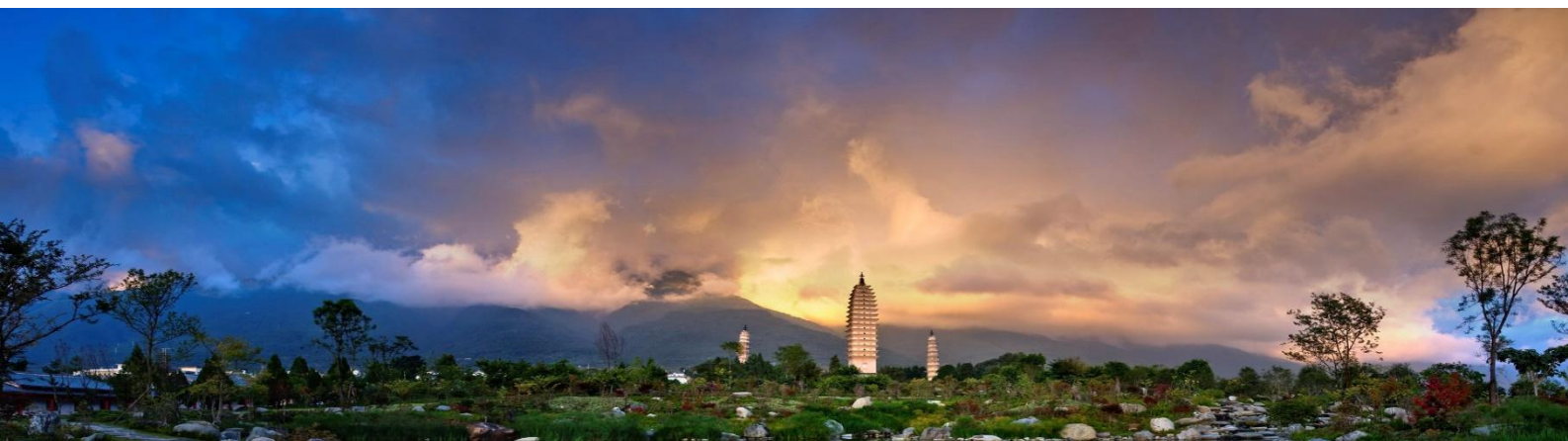




Confirmation
China Nature and World Heritage Explorer
Sep.2017



Trip highlights

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Yungang Caves

Wutaishan Mountain

Ancient Town of Pingyao

Shaolin Temple and Songshan Scenic Area

Longmen Grottos

Panda Base

Leshan Giant Buddha

Dazu Carving

Ancient Town of Lijiang

Rice Terrace in Yunnan Province

Yongding Tulou

Luxurious 5 Star Hotels

International brand luxurious 5 star hotels are selected wherever possible throughout the trip.

In the cases where International brand luxurious 5 star hotels are not available, local best hotels are offered.



Itinerary

Beijing(1nt)

Datong(1nt)

Wutaishan(1nt)

Taiyuan

Pingyao

Overnight train Taiyuan-Zhengzhou (soft sleeper)

Zhengzhou

Luoyang(1nt)

Chongqing (1nt)

Chengdu (1nt)

Shangri-La (1nt)

Lijiang(1nt)

Dali (1nt)

Kunming(1nt)

Yuanyang(1nt)

Jianshui(1nt)

Zhangjiajie(2nts)

Xiamen(1nt)

Yongding(1nt)

Confirmation Voucher

Tour Name	Big China Tour
Tour Code	RP6LG11-170909-0098

China Contact (We are at your service 24/7)

Contact Persons	Contact Numbers(Country code:0086)	
Eric Liu	Cell: 1370 1197 074	Office: 010-8590 8356
National Guide	Information of all guides (names and cell numbers) will be available by 25 Aug.2017)	
Guide Beijing		
Guide Datong/Wutaishan		
Guide Zhengzhou/Luoyang		
Guide Chengdu		
Guide Chongqing		
Guide Shangri-La/ Lijiang/Dali/Kunming/ Yuanyang/Jianshui		
Guide Xiamen/Yongding		

As mentioned before, this is a fantastic but challenging trip. If the difficulty of Tibet trip is rated as 10, this trip is 8.5. Clients will usually start early in the morning, and go back to hotel in the evening. National guide and local guides will be most collaborative and flexible to help tour leader-Mr Faruk Pekin to ensure a safe and pleasant journey. It is reasonably assume that the program may be revised in accordance with local situations in some occasions. If it happens, it shall always be approved by Mr Faruk Pekin.

Day 1 09 September Beijing

Arrive at Beijing, meet the guide and transfer to hotel. Buffet Dinner and stay overnight in fantastic 5 star Shangri-La Hotel Jen Beijing. (D)

Day 2 10 September Beijing-Datong

0345 Leave hotel (Breakfast box offered: 2 boiled eggs, cheese sandwich, Orange juice and banana).Transfer to airport for morning flight to Datong (reference flight: CA9119 0650/0800) .Visiting Yungang Caves (16 km) and Datong old town, (Drum tower, Huayan and Shanhua Temples). Lunch in a local restaurant. Buffet dinner and stay overnight in Howard Johnson Jindi Plaza Datong. (BLD)

Day 3 11 September Datong - Wutaishan

Visiting Hanging Temple (85 km /1 h 20 min), Ying Xian Wooden Pagoda (+60 km /1 h), Wutai Shan (+105 km /3 h), (Tayuansi, Xiantongsi, Pushading Temples) Lunch in a local restaurant. Dinner in a local restaurant. Enjoy dinner and stay overnight in Wutai Mountain Marriott Hotel. (BLD)

Day 4 12 September Wutaishan - Taiyuan - Zhengzhou

Departure for visiting old town of Pingyao (mainly Citywall of Pingyao) (350km /5h), then drive to Qiao Family Courtyard House (+20km/0.5h) and Shuanglinsi Temple, ARRIVE AT Taiyuan(235 km /4h). Departure for Zhengzhou by train(reference train: [No.1551/1554](#))

[1930/0667+1day](#))Lunch in a local restaurant. Dinner in local restaurant and overnight in train (soft sleeper-4 pax sharing one cabin, and 27 seats purchased) (BLD)

We have negotiated with local Chinese railway bureau for months. According to local Chinese railway bureau, this train of No.1551/1554 only has one compartment with 36 soft sleepers. It is government regulation that each foreigner can only use his passport to buy one train ticket. Local Chinese railway bureau cannot break the government regulation. According to local Chinese railway bureau, it is the matter of complying with Chinese government regulations, but not the issue money can solve.

Day 5 13 September Zhengzhou-Luoyang

Arrive in Zhengzhou at 0607, meet the guide and transfer to hotel for fine buffet breakfast. Visit Temple of City God. Lunch in luoyang. 1300 Departure for Louyang (75km/2hours) and arrive in Luoyang at 1500. Old Town of Luoyang, Guanlin Si, Visit Longmen Grottos. Visiting Baima Si (1.5 hour visit). (No time for Henan Provincial Museum(only part of museum is available as museum in under the renovation).-Lunch and Dinner in local restaurants. Stay overnight in Lee Royal Hotel. (BLD)

Day 6 14 September Luoyang-Dengfeng-Zhengzhou-Chongqing (revised)

Morning visit Shaolin Temple, Pagoda Forest and Kung Fu Show (3hours visit), Lunch in local restaurant. Transfer to airport in Zhengzhou (2hours drive) for evening flight to Chongqing (reference flight: [ZH9470 1945/2135](#)) .Dinner on board. Arrive in Chongqing, meet the guide and transfer to hotel and stay overnight in JW Marriott in Chongqing for one nights. (BLD)

Day 7 15 September Chongqing-Leshan-Chengdu

Transfer to Chengdu. En route visit Dazu Carvings 240km/3h), In the afternoon, visit Leshan Giant Buddha from the river (2hours drive). Arrive in Chengdu in late afternoon at 1800. Lunch and Dinner in local restaurants. [After dinner, 1930 Enjoy the famous Opera with Face Changing Performance \(No time to have buffet dinner at hotel before the show\)](#) Stay overnight in Crown Plaza in Chengdu. (BLD)

Day 8 16 September Chengdu-Shangri-La

Morning visit Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Centre. After lunch, transfer to airport for flight to Shangri-La(Zhongdian) (reference flight: [MU5858 1810/1950](#)) . Arrive in Shangri-La, meet the guide and transfer to hotel. Lunch in local restaurants. [Buffet dinner and](#) stay overnight in Shangri-La Hotel. (BLD)

Day 9 17 September Shangri-La-Lijiang

0745 leave hotel. (no time for Ancient Town of Shangri-La) Today visit the Songzanlin Monastery and Napa Lake, drive to Lijiang, en route visit the Tiger Leaping Gorge. [Lunch in the local restaurant near Tiger Leaping Gorge where the standrad of restaurant is very so so. Enjoy early buffet dinner at Intercontinental Hotel and then watch show-2000 Naxi Folk Music.](#) Stay overnight in Intercontinental Hotel. (BLD)

Day 10 18 September Lijiang-Dali 2000m (200km/2h20min)

Today visit the Spruce Meadow of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain with cable car, visit the Baisha Village Town and the.Museum of Naxi Center and Yuhu Village. Later afternoon transfer to Dali. Lunch and Dinner in local restaurants. Stay overnight in Hilton Hotel. (BLD)

Day 11 19 September Dali-Kunming

[Three Pagodas, Ancient Town of Dali](#), and transfer to the airport for flight to Kunming (reference flight: [MU5737 1330/1425](#)). Arrive in Kunming and transfer to hotel. Lunch and Dinner in local restaurants. [Enjoy Impression of Yunnan Show \(VIP seat reserved\)](#). Stay overnight in Sofitel. (BLD)

Day 12 20 September Kunming-Yuyang (1800 m)
Drive to Stone Forest (90km/1.5h), visit the Stone Forest, lunch at local restaurant in Stone Forest
After lunch, transfer to Yuanyang (240KM, 4-5hours). Enjoy set menu dinner and Stay overnight in Yunti Hotel (local best). (BLD)

Day 13 21 September Yuyang-Jianshui(180 m/2h)
In the morning visit the Rice Terrace. Lunch in local restaurant. After lunch in local restaurant transfer to Jianshui. [Enjoy set menu diner and](#) stay overnight in Lin'an Hotel (local best). (BLD)

Day 14 22 September Jianshui-Kunming (220 m/3h)-Zhangjiajie
In the morning visit the Zhu Family Garden and the Old Town of Jianshui. And transfer to the Kunming airport for flight to Zhangjiajie (reference flight: [CA3244/HO1020 1930/2110](#).)
Met the guide and transfer to hotel. Lunch in a local restaurant and dinner on board. Stay overnight in 5 star Pullman Zhangjiaji for 2 nights. (BLD)

Day 15 23 September Zhangjiajie
We take the cable car to the Tianzi Mountain, which is a virgin scenic attraction, "most beautiful but not yet known to the world for its height" You can take into sight all the mountains and valleys of the Wuling Mountains. Visit to Western Sea, Viewing Terrace, etc. In the afternoon, you will have a tour to Yuanjiajie scenic area, where you will find the so-called First Bridge under Heaven. And then visit the Four Gates with Plenty Water, where four streams passed mountains and form four natural gates. Lunch in a local restaurants. Enjoy buffet dinner and stay overnight in Pullman Zhangjiajie. (BLD)

You Need To Pay Supplement-Buffer Dinner at Pullman Zhangjiajie

Day 16 24 September Zhangjiajie-Changsha-Xiamen
Morning visit the Tour Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon. [We will experience the wonders of the world's bridge construction history, the world's longest, tallest, construction of the largest glass bridge world's longest and highest glass bridge ,The 430-meter-long, 6-meter-wide bridge, paved with 99 panes of three-layer transparent glasses, hangs between two steep cliffs 300 meters above the ground. The bridge has set 10 world records in design and construction.](#) Lunch and dinner in local restaurants. Transfer to Changsha airport.(320Km/4h)Fly to Xiamen (reference flight: [HU7080 2200/2340](#)). Arrive in Xiamen an stay overnight in Pullman Xiamen Powerlong Hotel (BLD)

Day 17 25 September Xiamen-Yongding (300km/4h)
Transfer to Yongding. Yongding Tulou Tour: Chuxi Villages tour and Hongkeng hakka Tulou Village. Lunch in a local restaurants Enjoy set menu dinner and stay overnight in King Tulou Hotel (local best). (BLD)

Day 18 26 September Yongding-Xiamen-Guangzhou
0800 Transfer to Xiamen airport (190km/3h), En route lunch in local restaurant. Take flight to Guangzhou (reference flight: [CZ3742 1445/1610](#)). Arrive in Guangzhou, meet the guide and

enjoy a panoramic city tour in Guangzhou with dinner at local restaurant. Transfer back to airport .End of Service

Luxurious Tour-Package with international brand 5 star hotels

Group Size	Package costs	Single Supplement	National Guide
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Arrangement of dinners at hotels(pay Supplement to have dinner at hotels)

Date	City
11 Sep.	Wutaishan
13 Sep.	Luoyang
14 Sep.	Chongqing
17 Sep.	Lijiang
18 Sep.	Dali
21 Sep.	Jianshui
22 Sep.	Zhangjiajie

Supplement based on the latest itinerary 27July

Date	City
10 Sep.	Beijing
10 Sep.	Datong
16 Sep.	Shangri-La
20 Sep.	Yuanyang
21 Sep.	Jianshui
23 Sep.	Zhangjiajie
24 Sep.	Zhangjiajie
25 Sep.	Yongding
26 Sep.	Guangzhou

Optional Evening Performance:

City	Performance
Chengdu	Facing Changing Opera
Lijiang	Naxi Folk Music Show

Including entrance fees according to the program

1. Official Visa Invitation Letter from CTS
2. Travel service liability insurance of CTS
3. Price differences for SGL and TRPL
4. DUS (Double used for SINGLE) supplement
5. All meals (Lunches and dinners at fine local restaurants or hotels) mentioned in the itinerary.
6. 0.5l water for each passenger during the tours
7. Including service of professional English speaking local guides in where it is necessary legally. The

- guide will have to be a silent guide as we will have our own tour leader lecturing in Turkish.
8. Luxury, new model A/C Coasters with 47-55 seats(depends on types of bus) for the group
 9. Total entrance fees
 10. Including all kind of service charges (including service taxes)
 11. Including porter age at the airports and hotels in & out
 12. Including all local taxes
 13. Including tips for the bellboys imajds and service charges
 14. Including the boat trips
 15. All the activities at the itinerary
 16. Domestic flight: Beijing-Datong, Zhengzhou-Chongqing, Chengdu-Shangri-La, Dali-Kunming, Kunming-Zhangjiajie, Changsha-Xiamen, and Xiamen-Guangzhou in economy.
 17. Train tickets: Taiyuan-Zhengzhou(soft sleeper; 4 pax sharing one cabin)

Please exclude from the above program:

1. International flights to and from China, train tickets, airport taxes and visa costs
2. Tips for the driver and the local guide (please suggest an outline per person per day) day for local guide and driver, day for national guide.
3. Extra drinks during meals
4. Travel or Medical insurance
5. Excess baggage, personal expenses, laundry & telephone calls.

****All flight timings are subject to change without notice. In cases where we are aware of any major schedule changes made to your itinerary before your departure, we shall revise your arrangements and notify you accordingly. However, it is possible for changes to occur whilst you are in China. Our representatives will do all that is necessary to rectify the problems these changes may cause and will endeavour to seek your advice concerning new arrangements. However, at times there can be limited options and some decisions may have to taken without your consent to protect the wellbeing of your tour in general****

Selected Hotel Information

City	Hotel Name	Standard	Contact Information
Beijing	Hotel Jen by Shangri-La http://www.shangri-la.com/cn/	5 star	Address: No 1 Jianguomenwai Avenue Beijing 100004 China Tel: (86 10) 6505 2277
Datong	Howard Johnson Jindi Plaza Datong http://plazajindidatong.hojochina.com/plazajingdi-dt-home_zh.html	5 star	Address: No. 88 Pingcheng Street, Datong, Shanxi, 037044 P.R.China Tel: 86 352 603 9999
Wutaishan	Wutai Mountain Marriott Hotel http://www.marriott.com.cn/hotels/travel/tynw-m-wutai-mountain-marriott-hotel	5 star	Address: No. 300 Jingangku Town, Wutai, Shanxi, China Tel: 86-350-331888
Louyang	Lee Royal Hotel http://www.mudu-leeroyalhotel.com/introduce_zh-cn.php	5 star	Address:No.239 Kaiyuan Avenue, Louyang, China Tel+: (+86)(0379)65979999
Chengdu	Crown Plaza Hotel http://www.cpcpandagarden.com/	5 star	Address: Poly Park 198, No.1980, Shu Long Avenue, Xindu District, Chengdu Tel: 86-28-61798888
Shangri-La	Shangri-La Hotel http://www.shangri-	5 star	Address: No.1, Chicika Street, Jiantang Town, Shangri-La City, Diqing,

	la.com/cn/yunnan/shangrila/		Yunnan Province, China Tel:(86 887) 899 8998
Lijiang	Intercontinental Hotel https://www.ihg.com/intercontinental/hotels/cn/zh/lijiang/ljqac/hoteldetail	5 star	Address: No. 276, Lijiang City, Yunnan, China Tel: +86-888-5588888
Dali	Hilton Hotel http://www.hilton.com.cn/zh-cn/hotel/dali/hilton-dali-dlugthi/index.html	5 star	Address: South of Dali City, Yunnan Province, China Tel: 86-872-6688888
Kunming	Sofitel Hotel https://www.ihg.com/intercontinental/hotels/cn/zh/reservation	5 star	Address: No. 5 Yijing Road, Xishan District, Kunming, China Tel: 86-871-63188888
Yuanyang	Yunti Hotel http://hotel.elong.com/yuanyang_honghezhou/32517002/	3 star Local Best	Address:Yuanyang County 662416, China Tel:+86: (0873)5624858
Jianshui	Lin'an Hotel http://www.linanhotel.cn/#2	Perspective 5 star Local Best	Address: Yunnan Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture Jianshui County Tel:+86(0873)3183777
Zhangjiajie	Pullman Zhangjiajie http://www.pullmanhotels.com/zh/hotel-7934-%E5%BC%A0%E5%AE%B6%E7%95%8C%E4%BA%AC%E6%AD%A6%E9%93%82%E5%B0%94%E6%9B%BC%E9%85%92%E5%BA%97/index.shtml	5 star	Address: Huajuan Road, Wulingyuan District, Zhangjiajie, China Tel: (+86) 744-8888888
Xiamen	Pullman Xiamen Powerlong http://www.accorhotels.com/zh/hotel-8160-%E5%8E%A6%E9%97%A8%E5%AE%9D%E9%BE%99%E9%93%82%E5%B0%94%E6%9B%BC%E5%A4%A7%E9%85%92%E5%BA%97/index.shtml	5 star	Address: No. 133 Hubing Road, Xiamen, China Tel: (+86)592-5188888
Yongding	King Tulou Hotel http://hotel.elong.com/yongding/01437007/	Perspective 5 star Local Best	Address: Town (Hukeng Zhen) Yongding County (Yongding Xian) Tel:+86(0597)5205555

MUNICIPALITY OF BEIJING BEIJING SHI

Beijing is a metropolis in northern China and the capital of the People's Republic of China.

It is one of the four municipalities of the PRC, which are equivalent to provinces in China's administrative structure.

The municipality of Beijing borders Hebei Province to the north, west, south, and for a small section in the east, and Tianjin Municipality to the southeast.

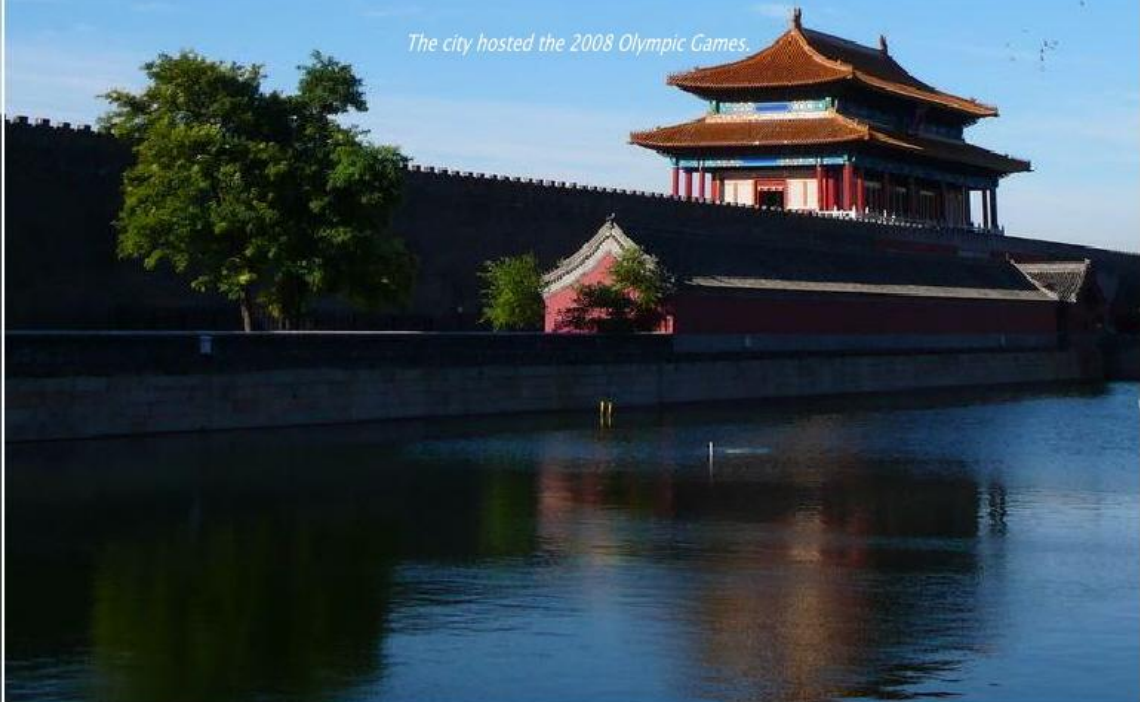
Beijing is one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China.

Beijing is China's second largest city, after Shanghai.

Beijing is a major transportation hub, with dozens of railways, roads and motorways passing through the city. It is also the focal point of many international flights to China.

Beijing is recognised as the political, educational, and cultural center of the People's Republic of China, while Shanghai and Hong Kong predominate in economic fields.

The city hosted the 2008 Olympic Games.



Beijing (Peking) is one of the great cities of the world and famous for its long history and splendid culture. It has been the capital for the last 700 years and is the second largest city in China. Its long history has endowed the city with countless historic and scenic spots. Beijing is filled with great monuments, palaces, temples and reminders of the past glory of imperial China. Situated in the northeast of China, it is the center of national politics and culture and the hub for international communication. It has an overall population of 10,855,000 and covers an area of 16,808 square kilometers at an elevation of 43.5 m above sea level. The climate in Beijing is seasonal with cold, dry winters and hot summers. Beijing is a tourist city famed for its picturesque scenery. Autumn is the peak season, when the weather is dry and cooler. You can visit the largest and best-preserved ancient palace, the Imperial Palace, the most well preserved royal garden, the Summer Palace, and the world-famous Great Wall. The Imperial Palace represents the crystallization of ancient Chinese architecture. The Summer Palace has a concentration of the best of ancient buildings, as well as styles of gardening, and is a virtual museum of traditional Chinese gardening. The Great Wall, a huge project that began more than 2,000 years ago, winds its way along the mountains and valleys bordering northern China and approaches quite close to Beijing. Today, with its magnificent Tiananmen Square, its network of cloverleaf road junctions and its skyline of high-rises, Beijing has taken on a new look, blending classical grace with hi-tech modernity. The grand, magnificent Tiananmen Square stands harmoniously in the vicinity of crisscrossing cloverleaf junctions and serried skyscrapers. Simple, classical tradition synchronizes perfectly with contemporary civilization: Beijing, this ancient city, has taken on a brand-new look.



for

Beijing's climate is defined as "continental monsoon." The four seasons are distinctly recognizable. Spring and autumn is the best time to be in Beijing, particularly in the months of April, May, September and October. Autumn is considered to be the best time to visit Beijing as the skies are clear and the weather is very comfortable. The four seasons are very clear in Beijing with a temperate spring, rainy summer, clear autumn, and a cold, snowy winter. The average temperature throughout the year is 11.8POP. The coldest month is January with an average temperature of -4.6POP and the hottest month is July at an average temperature of 26.1POP. Unfortunately, spring and autumn are shorter than summer and winter. Although winter is technically longer, that should not keep you from traveling to Beijing as indoor heating is widely available. Nevertheless, as the indoor/outdoor temperature difference is rather large, travelers should be prepared with warm clothing and a thick coat is recommended for the colder months of the year. In winter, off-season discounts are to be had as well. Bilingual weather information can be obtained by dialing 12121 when in Beijing. The average precipitation in a year is 644 mm. The frost-free period is 180-days.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature (Celsius)	-4.6	-2.2	4.5	13.1	19.8	24.0	25.8	24.4	19.4	12.4	4.1	-2.7
Rainfall (cm)	3.0	7.4	8.6	19.4	33.1	77.8	192.5	212.3	57.0	24.0	6.6	2.6
Days of rainfall	2.0	3.1	4.1	4.6	5.9	9.7	14.1	13.2	6.8	5.0	3.7	1.6



Taiyuan

(Chinese: "Great Plains") is a prefecture-level city and the capital of Shanxi province, China. In 2004, the city had a population of 3.4 million.

Geography

Taiyuan is one of the great industrial cities of China and lies on the Fen River in the north of its fertile upper basin. It commands the north-south route through Shanxi, as well as important natural lines of communication through the mountains to Hebei province in the east and (via Fenyang) to northern Shanxi province in the west.

Climate

Taiyuan experiences a steppe climate. Spring is dry, with frequent dust storms, followed by early summer heat waves. Summer tends to be warm to hot with most of the year's rainfall concentrated in July and August. Winter is long and cold, but dry and sunny. There tends to be considerable diurnal variation in temperature, and readings can range from under -20C to over 40C.

Economy

Taiyuan's nominal GDP was 146.8 billion yuan, a growth of 8.1% from the previous year. Taiyuan's primary, secondary, and tertiary industries were worth 2 billion yuan, 63.9 billion yuan, and 59.6 billion yuan respectively in 2007. Taiyuan is the largest coal mining center in China. It also houses several large corporations in Taiyuan, such as the Taiyuan Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) which is the largest stainless steel producing plant in Asia.

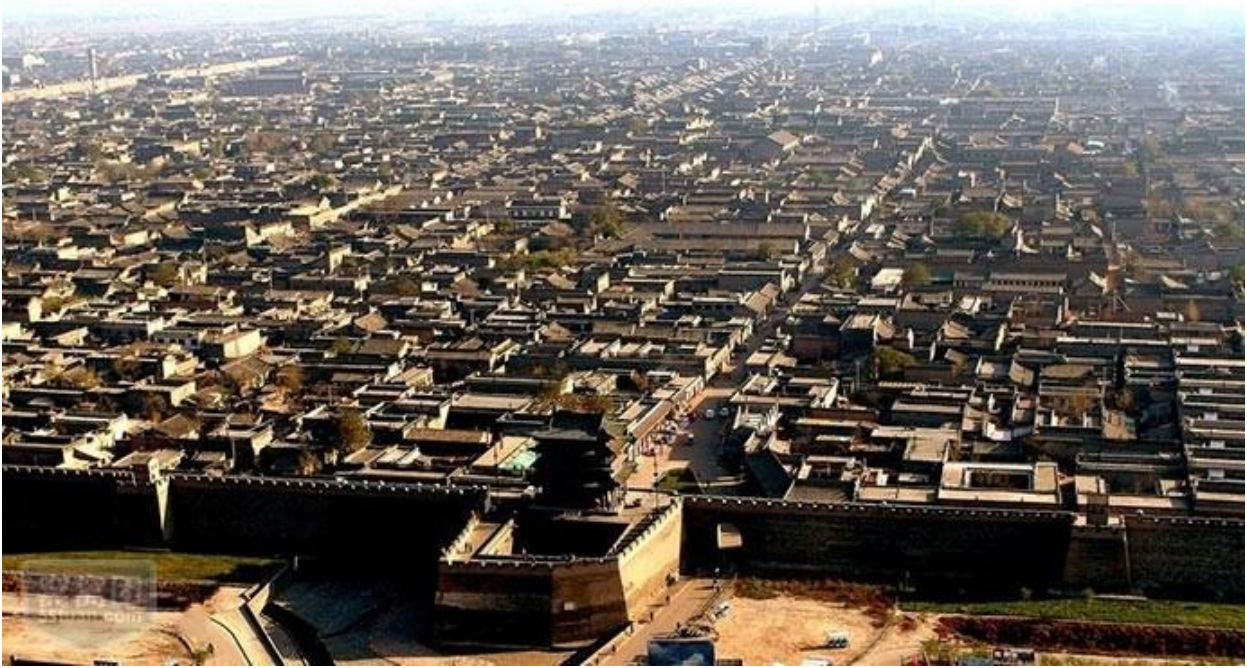


Wutaishan

(Chinese: literally "Five Plateau Mountain"), also known as Wutai Mountain or Qingliangshan, located in Shanxi, China, is one of the Four Sacred Mountains in Chinese Buddhism

The mountain is home to many of China's most important monasteries and temples. Mount Wutai's cultural heritage consists of 53 sacred monasteries, and they were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2009. Each of the four mountains is viewed as the abode or place of practice of one of the four great bodhisattvas.

Wutai is the home of the Bodhisattva of wisdom, Manjusri or Wenshu in Chinese. Mount Wutai also has an enduring relationship with Tibetan Buddhism. It takes its name from its unusual topography, consisting of five rounded peaks (North, South, East, West, Central), of which the North peak, called Beitai Ding or Yedou Feng, is the highest, and indeed the highest point in northern China. Wutai was the first of the four mountains to be identified and is often referred to as "first among the four great mountains." It was identified on the basis of a passage in the Avatamsaka Sutra, which describes the abodes of many bodhisattvas. Mount Wutai is home to some of the oldest existent wooden buildings in China that have survived since the era of the Tang Dynasty (618–907). In 2008 Chinese authorities hope that the shrine at Mount Wutai will be considered for designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Local residents, however, claim they have been forced from their homes and relocated away from their livelihoods in preparation for the bid.



Pingyao

is a Chinese city and county in central Shanxi province, China. It lies about 715 km from Beijing and 80 km from the provincial capital, Taiyuan. During the Qing Dynasty, Pingyao was a financial center of China. It is now renowned for its well-preserved ancient city wall, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Historical Importance

Pingyao still retains its city layout from the Ming and Qing dynasties, conforming to a typical bagua pattern. More than 300 sites in or near the city have ancient ruins. Preserved Ming- and Qing-style residences number close to 4,000. The streets and storefronts still largely retain their historical appearance. In the Spring and Autumn Period, the county belonged to the kingdom of Jin. It became a World Heritage Site in 1997.

The City Walls

The city walls of Pingyao were constructed in the 3rd year of the Hongwu Emperor (1370). The walls have six barbican gates. The north and south sides have one gate each. The east and west sides have two gates each. This pattern is similar to that of a turtle (the head, tail, and four legs), earning Pingyao the moniker "Turtle City."

Finance

Pingyao was the financial center of China in the late Qing Dynasty. During those times, there were as many as 20 financial institutions within the city, comprising more than half of total in the whole country. Among these is "Rishengchang," considered the first bank in China.

Luoyang



Located in the western part of China's central Henan Province, Luoyang is one of China's seven ancient capitals. Comprised of six city districts and eight counties, Luoyang occupies an area of 15,492 square kilometers, with a total population of 6.16 million, 1.4 million urban. Luoyang city proper covers an area of 544 square kilometers.

Luoyang served as the capital for nine dynasties over a period of more than 1,500 years. 96 emperors from the prehistoric Xia Dynasties, through Shang, Western and Eastern Zhou, Cao Wei, Sui, Later Liang, Later Tang and Later Jin Eastern Han established their seat of power there. Luoyang's importance in history means that it has significant influence in China's cultural heritage and has many historical sites. Although the political upheavals in the last century destroyed some of its grand historical heritage, Luoyang still retains many of its significant ancient landmarks which are the main tourist draw cards.

In and around Luoyang, visitors will find the White Horse Temple, the first Buddhism temple in China, Longmen Grottoes, a place renowned as a treasure house of Buddhist culture and art. The natural scenery around this area is also fascinating.



Giant Panda

Common name

Giant Panda (En); Panda Géant (Fr); Panda gigante (Sp);

scientific name

Ailuropoda melanoleuca

habitat

Temperate Broadleaf and Mixed Forests of Southwest China

status

Endangered (IUCN 3.1)

population

1,600 in the wild (2004)

did you know?

That the panda cub is 1/900th the size of its mother

height

Upto 150cm for adults

weight

100 to 150 kg

Map (Giant Panda Range)



The giant panda has an insatiable appetite for bamboo. A typical animal eats half the day—a full 12 out of every 24 hours—and relieves itself dozens of times a day. It takes 28 pounds (12.5 kilograms) of bamboo to satisfy a giant panda's daily dietary needs, and it hungrily plucks the stalks with elongated wrist bones that function rather like thumbs. Pandas will sometimes eat birds or rodents as well.

Wild pandas live only in remote, mountainous regions in central China. These high bamboo forests are cool and wet—just as pandas like it. They may climb as high as 13,000 feet (3,962 meters) to feed on higher slopes in the summer season.

Pandas are often seen eating in a relaxed sitting posture, with their hind legs stretched out before them. They may appear sedentary, but they are skilled tree-climbers and efficient swimmers.

Giant pandas are solitary. They have a highly developed sense of smell that males use to avoid each other and to find females for mating in the spring. After a five-month pregnancy, females give birth to a cub or two, though they cannot care for both twins. The blind infants weigh only 5 ounces (142 grams) at birth and cannot crawl until they reach three months of age. They are born white, and develop their much loved coloring later.

There are only about 1,000 giant pandas left in the wild. Perhaps 100 pandas live in zoos, where they are always among the most popular attractions. Much of what we know about pandas comes from study of these zoo animals, because their wild cousins are so rare and elusive.

Chengdu, formerly transliterated *Chengtu*, is the capital of Sichuan province in Southwest China. It holds sub-provincial administrative status. The urban area houses 14,047,625 inhabitants: 7,123,697 within the municipality's nine districts and 6,730,749 in the surrounding region.



Chengdu is one of the most important economic, transportation, and communication centers in Western China. According to the 2007 Public Appraisal for Best Chinese Cities for Investment, Chengdu was chosen as one of the top ten cities to invest in out of a total of 280 urban centers in China. In 2006, it was named China's 4th-most livable city by *China Daily*.

The fertile Chengdu Plain, on which Chengdu is located, is also known as the "Country of Heaven", a phrase also often translated as "The Land of Abundance". The discovery of the Jinsha site suggests the area of Chengdu had become the center of the bronze age Sanxingdui culture around the time of the establishment of the state of Shu, prior to its annexation by Qin in 316 BC.

Pandas, in Chengdu

As China's National Treasure, the giant panda is one of the rarest animals in the world. The total number is estimated to be 1,500, including those living in the wild, 80% of which are in Sichuan Province. A breeding center for giant pandas was founded in the north suburbs of Chengdu. It is the only one of its kind in the world that's located in a metropolitan area.

In order to better protect wild giant pandas, Chengdu has established nature reserves in Dujiangyan City, Chongzhou City, and Dayi County. Sichuan Wolong Giant Panda Nature Reserve, the biggest of its kind in the world, is only 130 km outside Chengdu.



Giant Buddha of Leshan (aka Dafo) is the tallest stone Buddha statue in the world, carved out of a cliff face by an 8th-century monk in southern Szechuan province.

History Construction on the Giant Buddha began in 713 AD. It was the idea of a Chinese monk named Haitong, who hoped that the Buddha would calm the turbulent waters that plagued the shipping vessels travelling down the river. His plans were not just supernatural - the enormous amount of rubble carved away from the cliff would be deposited in the river, altering the currents and calming the waters. When government funding for the project was threatened, the



monk is said to have gouged out his own eyes to show his piety and sincerity. The construction project was continued by his disciples and finally completed by the local governor in 803. Today, there are still some strong currents where the three rivers meet - but none that threaten the tourist ferries. The "Mount Emei Scenic Area with Leshan Giant Buddha" was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.

What to See Known as Dafo, the statue depicts a seated Maitreya Buddha with his hands resting on his knees, gazing across the river with heavy-lidded eyes. Maitreya is the future Buddha, who will appear to preach the dharma when the teachings of Gautama Buddha have faded away. He was especially popular during the 4th to 7th centuries and his images can be found throughout the Buddhist world, conveying his characteristic air of expectancy and promise. Standing 71 meters (233 feet) tall, Dafo is the tallest Buddha statue in the world. His shoulders are 28 meters (92 feet) wide and his smallest toenail can accommodate a seated person. Each eyebrow is 18 feet long. According to a local saying, "The mountain is a Buddha and the Buddha is a mountain." Several drainage passages hidden in the Buddha's hair, collar, chest, and holes in the back of his ears preventing the Buddha from serious erosion and weathering. He has been lovingly maintained on a regular basis throughout his 1,200-year history, but is still a bit mossy. Visitors stare in awe at the Buddha from the tourist ferries and from a terrace next to his ear. On one side of the terrace is a modern statue of the monk Haitong, and behind is the Lingyun Temple Museum with exhibits on the construction and renovations of Dafo. South of the Giant Buddha is Wuyou Si, which visitors pass on the way from the ferry to the Buddha. A pink-walled monastery founded in 742 AD, it has impressive decorations including splendid gate guardians, painted scenes from the Journey to the West (on the second hall) and amusing sculptures of arhats (inside the Louhan Hall). On the other side of the gully on Lingyun Shan, there are signs for Han-dynasty tomb chambers, which suggest this site was sacred before the Buddha was carved



Chongqing, a picturesque mountain city that clings to steep cliffs located at the confluence of the Yangtze and Jialing Rivers, serves as either a port of destination or of departure for every Victoria Yangtze River cruise. In 1997 Chongqing was formally established by China's central government as the nation's fourth directly-administered municipality. As a consequence of this reorganization, Chongqing now administers a sprawling area of 82,365 sq kilometers that include 27 counties and cities, 16 districts, and total population exceeding 33,000,000 people! In addition to Chongqing's newly elevated political status, the city serves as an important economic center and vital hub of communication and transportation in southwest China. Chongqing is also a heavily industrialized city that produces steel, ships, automobiles, chemicals, electronics, and textiles.

"Chongqing" means "Double Celebration". The name first conferred on the city by Zhao Dun during the Song Dynasty in commemoration of the fact that he was first made prince and later crowned emperor here. The history of the city far precedes its current name, however. The city's origin date back over 3,000 years and it is known to have served as the capital of the ancient Ba Kingdom before that kingdom fell to the expanding of Qin state in 316 B.C. In more recent time Chongqing served China's war-time capital and headquarters of Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist government during the war of resistance against Japan (World War II). Indeed, during the war, the island over which the Yangtze River Bridge is now built served as an airstrip for "The Flying Tigers"! After the war, Chiang Kai-Shek and Mao Zedon participated in the famous "Chongqing Talks" here, which sought unsuccessfully to negotiate a political reconciliation between the Nationalists and the Communists.

Chongqing is also well known for its weather. The winter is the foggy season here and the city is popularly known as a city of fog. In fact, Chongqing averages 68.3 foggy days each year. In the summer, Chongqing is known as one of the "three furnaces along the Yangtze". The name is well chosen as the temperature can reach as high as 43 degrees centigrade (116 degrees Fahrenheit) while the humidity during the summer typically hovers between 90 and 95 percent.

Shangri-La (Diqing)



Shangri-La (Xamgyi'nyilha) County is a primarily Tibetan county in northwestern Yunnan province, Southwest China and is the location of the seat of the Dêqên Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture.

In the second half of the 20th Century the county was called Zhongdian County but was renamed in 2001 after the fictional land of Shangri-La in the 1933 James Hilton novel Lost Horizon, in an effort to promote tourism in the area. The original Tibetan population refers to this place by its traditional name Gyalthang, meaning "Royal plains". This ancient name is reflected in the Tibetan Pinyin name Jiantang Town, the county seat.



Lijiang is a prefecture-level city in the northwest of Yunnan province, People's Republic of China.

It has an area of 21,219 square kilometres and a population of 1,244,769 as of 2010 census.

Lijiang City replaced former administrative region Lijiang Prefecture. Lijiang Prefecture no longer exists today. It was under the rule of the Mu family local commanders during the Ming Dynasty and Qing Dynasty. The Baisha Old Town was the political, commercial and cultural center for the local Naxi people and other ethnic people for 400 years from the year 658 AD to 1107 AD. The Dabaoji Palace of the Baisha Fresco where is very close to the Baisha Naxi Hand-made Embroidery Institute was built in the year 658AD in the Tang Dynasty. In ancient



times, the Baisha Old Town used to be the center of silk embroidery in the southwest of China and the most important place of the Ancient Southern Silk Road, also called the Ancient Tea and Horse Road or Ancient tea route. The Ancient Southern Silk Road started from Myanmar, crossed Lijiang, Shangri-La County, Tibet, then journeyed through the Fertile Crescent Arabian lands particularly Iran, Iraq formerly Mesopotamia, Jordan, Israel, then eventually to the Mediterranean Sea. After thousands of years, these luxury goods and the resulting wealth became a prime cause of past and present wars. The Naxi women were well known for their hand-made embroidery before the year 1972 during the Great Cultural Revolution. The most famous Naxi masters were arrested and put in the jail, some of them died in the jail during the Cultural Revolution because they did hand-made embroidery only for the Naxi Emperors when they were young.

Old Town

The world famous Old Town of Lijiang is located in Lijiang City. It is a UNESCO Heritage Site. The town has



a history going back more than 800 years and was once a confluence for trade along the old tea horse road. The Lijiang old town is famous for its orderly system of waterways and bridges. The old town of Lijiang differs from other ancient Chinese cities in architecture, history and the culture of its traditional residents the Naxi people, therefore people there are called 胖金哥 and 胖金妹 (male and female respectively). The town was ruled by the Mu Family during the portions of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, a period of nearly 500 years.

Dali City

is a county-level city in and the seat of the Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, northwestern Yunnan province of Southwest China. Dali is the ancient capital of both the Bai kingdom Nanzhao, which flourished in the area during the 8th and 9th centuries, and the Kingdom of Dali, which reigned from 937–1253.

Situated in a once significantly Muslim part of South China, Dali was also the center of the Panthay Rebellion against the reigning imperial Qing Dynasty from 1856–1863. It was severely damaged during an earthquake in 1925.

Dali is also famous for the many types of marble it produces, which are used primarily in construction and for decorative objects. In fact, Dali is so famous for the stone that the name of marble in Chinese is literally "Dali Stone" Dali is now a major tourist destination, along with Lijiang, for both domestic and international tourists.



city is still peaceful and quiet.

Dali and Yunnan's capital Kunming are only a 40-minute flight apart. Dali's newly finished administrative district that houses the newly opened Dali International Convention Center is in Longshan District.

The Dali government's urban planning keeps its old and new districts separate, to encourage tourism. The "new city" is known as Xiaguan and is south of the old city. The old city was built during Ming Dynasty emperor Hongwu's reign (1368–1398). Owing to the distance between them, the old

Kunming



is the capital and largest city of Yunnan province in Southwest China. It was known as Yunnan-Fou until the 1920s. A prefecture-level city, it is the political, economic, communications and cultural centre of Yunnan, and is the seat of the provincial government. It is also home to several universities, museums, galleries and other important economic, cultural, and

educational institutions. The headquarters of many of Yunnan's large businesses are in Kunming as well. It was important during World War II as a Chinese military center, American air base, and transport terminus for the Burma Road . Located in the middle of the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, Kunming is located at an altitude of 1,900 m above sea level and at a latitude just north of the Tropic of Cancer. It covers an area of 21,473 square kilometres and its urban area covers 2,081km². Kunming has population of 6,432,212 including 3,055,000 in the urban area and is located at the northern edge of the large Lake Dian, surrounded by temples and lake-and-limestone hill landscapes. Kunming consists of an old, previously walled city, a modern commercial district, residential and university areas. The city has an astronomical observatory, and its institutions of higher learning include Yunnan University, Yunnan Normal University and a medical college. On the outskirts is a famed bronze temple, dating from the Ming dynasty.

Its economic importance derives from its geographical position. Positioned near the border with Southeastern Asian countries, serving as a transportation hub in Southwest China, linking by rail to Vietnam and by road to Burma and Laos. This positioning also makes it an important trade center in this region of the nation.



It also houses some manufacturing, chiefly copper, though some other chemicals, machinery, textiles, paper and cement take key. Though having a nearly 2,400 year history, its modern prosperity dates only from 1910, when the railway from Hanoi was built. The city has continued to develop rapidly under China's modernization efforts. Kunming's streets have widened while office buildings and housing projects develop at a fast pace. Kunming has been designated a special tourism center and as such sports a proliferation of high-rises and luxury hotels.



Yuanyang Rice Terraces

Yuanyang Rice Terraces, located on the southern slopes of Ailao Mountain in Yuanyang County (part of Honghe Hani Autonomous Prefecture) and located in the south of Yunnan Province has been a masterpiece of the ingenuity of the Hani people for generations. Southern Ailao Mountain, with this typical tiered landscape, is famed for its unique frontier scenery.

The Hani people's ancestors came to this steep mountain area 2,500 years ago. In their struggle against the difficult terrain they successfully established the terraces, where they grew rice in order to make a living. The technology of developing fertile land on rugged mountain slopes didn't spread all over China and Southeast Asia until 14th century. The creativity of the Hani people turned this mountain area into one of artistic beauty. In recognition, the Ming Dynasty emperor granted the title of 'Skillful Sculptor' to Hani people and their good reputation was passed down from generation to generation. At present, known as 'land sculpture' the terraced fields have been being officially acknowledged by UNESCO as a World Cultural and Natural Heritage site. Hani terraced fields are magnificent and on a large-scale. They extend to many towns along the south bank of the Red River, such as Yuanyang, Lüchun and Jinping among others. With an area of more than 28,005.3 acres, the terrace in Yuanyang County is regarded as the core area of Hani terraces as the county is mountainous and the terraces built on the hillsides have a slope varying from 15 degrees to 75 degrees. The terraces rise by 3,000 steps forming a landscape that is rare both at home and abroad. In the main, the Yuanyang Hani terraces form three major scenic areas: Duoyishu scenic area, Bada scenic area and Laohuzui (the Tiger Mouth) scenic area. So many terraces set among vast forests, topped by an ocean of clouds create a magical, magnificent view.



Jianshui, an ancient town in Honghe Prefecture of Yunnan Province, is one of the national famous historic and cultural towns of China. With a history of about 1200 years and an abundant distinctive cultural heritage, the Ancient Town enjoys a great reputation as a 'Museum of Ancient Buildings and Residential Houses' and attracts a lot of visitors at home and abroad.

Jianshui was called Lin'an or Badian Town in ancient times. It is located over 220 kilometers (nearly 136.7 miles) south of Kunming. The history of this ancient town can be dated back to Nanzhao State (738-937). About the year 810 the Nanzhao State built Huili City here. Huili in Yi (an ethnic minority of China) language means 'vast sea', and in Han language it is translated as Jianshui. In the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) the government set up Jianshui Zhou. Later, in the Ming Dynasty, it was changed to Lin'an Fu. Under the reign of Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) it was changed to Jianshui County.

Jianshui still retains the traditional style of the original town in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) with break walls and a gate tower. From over 12 centuries of construction, more than 15 ancient buildings have remained in its present ancient town. If you come here to have a look, you will find many distinctive attractions. The famous scenic spots include: Jianshui Confucius Temple, Zhu Family Garden, Double Dragon Bridge and the National Examination Site of Xuezheng (the National Education Ministry) of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Apart from these attractions, the surrounding sights are also delightful, such as the Swallow Cave and Zhang Family Garden in Tuanshan Village.



Zhangjiajie City is located on the northwestern border of Hunan Province. Covering an area of 9,516 square kilometers (about 3,674 square miles), there are four areas under its governance: Yongding District and Wuling District, Cili County and Sangzhi County. The city enjoys subtropical moist mountain climate, thus for visitors it is an ideal place to spend one's holiday.

Zhangjiajie City features a variety of different terrains including: mountainous regions, upland areas, plains, and Karst rock areas. Among these, the mountains cover 76 percent of the total area. The world-famous natural heritage site 'Wulingyuan Scenic Area' is located on the base of these great mountains. Areas worth visiting include Zhangjiajie National Forest Park (known as China's first national forest park), Suoxiyu Natural Resource Reserve, and Tianzi Mountain Natural Resource Reserve. The scenic area hosts many natural features including: mountains, forests, caves, lakes and waterfalls and perhaps there are more than three thousand rock ridges and eight hundred ghylls. They enjoy the reputation of 'Original Picture on Mountain and River of China'. This wonderland is covered with dense forests and is considered Mother Nature's Oxygen Bar.

Xiamen (Xiàmén, 厦门; formerly Amoy and still called E-mng in the local Hokkien dialect) is one of



Fujian province's most beautiful coastal cities. Situated at the mouth of Jiulong River (Nine Dragon River), the city of Xiamen encompasses Xiamen Island, **Gulangyu Islet** and, on the mainland, Tong'an County (Tóng'ān Qū, 同安区).

Xiamen's history as a port goes way back: It was the first of the **Qing Dynasty** treaty ports where foreign merchants were allowed to settle and legally trade with Chinese traders. Today, the legacy of that history—the extensive concession-era villas, townhouses and consulates of Gulangyu—testify to that past. Later in the 20th century, the city became one of China's first special economic zones, leading to rapid development that continues today, though its popularity as a tourist destination only really began to realize its huge potential after the region, which is opposite Taiwan, was opened up after years as a sensitive military center.

Today, Xiamen's salty sea breezes, sunny days and picturesque scenery draw throngs of Chinese tourists. It is slowly gaining in popularity among foreign visitors as well and has become a favorite destination for expats and travelers looking to kitesurf in China. In the heat of the summer, Xiamen's beaches are popular spots to cool off, even if parts of the shoreline could use intensive cleanup efforts.

Xiamen is probably best known for Gulangyu, an islet accessible only by ferry located off Xiamen Island's southwestern coast. Cars are forbidden on Gulangyu and foot traffic prevails, although there is a small armada of electric powered golf buggy-style vehicles on hand to whisk leg-weary or less budget conscious tourists between scenic spots.



Yongding Yongding County, famous for the unique Hakka earthen buildings, is situated in the



borderland of China's two special economic zones, Xiamen and Shantou. It borders Zhangzhou City of the "Minnan golden triangle" to the east and Meizhou City of Guangdong Province to the west. The county is 452 kilometers (half and five hours by car) from Fuzhou, the capital city of Fujian Province. It covers an area of 2216 square kilometers, with a population of 13,473,100, among which only 92,600 are non-agricultural population.

Currently, Yongding is one of the eight overseas Chinese hometowns in China. There are over 800,000 overseas Chinese around the world whose hometown is Yongding. For example Hu Wenhui (胡文虎), a renowned patriotic overseas Chinese, was a newspaper tycoon and Tiger Balm tycoon in 1930s and 1940s.

Yongding County is beautiful in natural scenery and abundant in tourist resources. Currently it is a key tourism destination and an opening up tourism economic zone in Fujian Province. The representative attractions in Yongding are Yongding Hakka roundhouses, which by its distinct architecture style and rich cultural connotations has been honored the "unique mythical residential building in the world" and listed in the World Cultural Heritage.



Yongding is about 307 kilometers (about 4-hour drive) from Xiamen, and it would be a nice itinerary to visit Yongding when you have seen the sights in Xiamen. Because the famous Hakka earthen buildings in Yongding are dispersive, the best way of visiting is joining a tour group, and you'd better at least stay a night in Yongding (if not, you might be really hurry and tired). Several Hakka earthen buildings have been developed into inns, and you can live in these inns to enjoy a unique experience. However, the accommodation condition of these inns is clean and simple, but not as good as hotels.