

Chongqing City Guide



Chongqing is the largest municipality in southwest China. It is a modern port city on the upper reaches of the Yangtze River at the confluence of the Yangtze and Jialing Rivers. With an area of 31,800 square miles (82,400 square kilometers) It is the biggest city in China.

Before getting its present name nearly 800 years ago, its former names were Jiangzhou, Yuzhou, and Gongzhou. Since the Qin Dynasty (221 - 207BC), many dynasties have set up administrative institutions that have endowed the city with brilliant cultures. Perched beside the Yangtze, the "Golden River", Chongqing symbolizes Yangtze River civilizations and is the cradle of the Bayu Culture.

As China's fourth municipality after Beijing, Shanghai, and Tianjin, Chongqing has maintained rapid economic development while preserving a wonderful natural wonders and cultural heritage.

Known as the 'Mountain City', it has a wavy terrain and encompasses a wealth of water reserves, mineral resources, dense forests, and abundant flora and fauna.

Chongqing has become the world's fastest-growing tourism city, recording a whopping 14% growth in its tourism sector.

“Chongqing, which is a historic city with 3,000-year Bayu culture, welcomes you to have charming landscape, culture experiencing, including gourmet cuisines.”

Chongqing location in China.



Attractions



Yangtze River. winding about 3,964 miles, Yangtze River is the largest in China and the third largest in the world after the Nile in Africa and the Amazon in South America. Originating from the Tanggula Range in Qinghai Province in western China, it traverses eleven provinces and cities from west to east, including Qinghai, Tibet, Sichuan, Yunnan, Chongqing, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Anhui, Jiangsu and Shanghai. Finally, it pours into the East China Sea at Shanghai.

Three Gorges. Qutang Gorge, the shortest and most majestic of the Three Gorges, winds five miles from Baidi City in Fengjie County to Daxi Town in Wushan County. The two banks of the gorge contain numerous scenic spots. The Wu Gorge is the second gorge of the Three Gorges of Yangtze River and is famous for its elegance. Winding over 25 miles, it starts from the estuary of Daning River (east of Wushan)

Chaotianmen Dock. Chaotianmen Dock is a major water transportation hub in Chongqing, where Jialing River and the Yangtze River meet. It is also the landmark and a must-visit attraction of Chongqing.

Jiefangbei CBD. Located in the center of downtown Chongqing, Jiefangbei CBD, also known as Jiefangbei Pedestrian Street or Jiefangbei Square, is the busiest and most prosperous business district in West China. The whole pedestrian street, taking an area of 36,000m² (approximately 43,055 sq. yd), centers on the People's Liberation Monument, or Jiefangbei in Chinese and includes Minquan Road, Minzu Road and Zourong Road. It's now a must-go destination for tourists to Chongqing, where one can enjoy shopping and various delicious foods.

Hong Ya Cave. Near Jiefangbei, a recreation of the old Chongqing, clinging to the side of the mountain with many small shops. A tourist place but you can find recreations of old local crafts here and genuine local food.

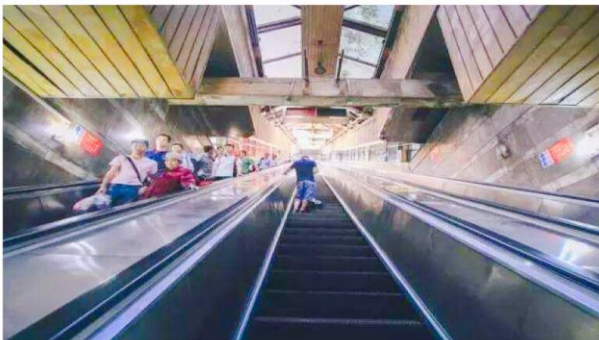
Ciqikou. 14 kilometers to the west of Chongqing Municipality lies the ancient village of Ci Qi Kou (Porcelain Village) situated on the bank of the Jialing River. It was recognized as a protected cultural site by the State Council in 1998. There are many shops lining the twelve-flag stoned paved lanes that form the main routes. Tourists will find many outlets for craftwork, groceries, teashops and the like as well as a horologist, photography supplies, drugstore and a tempting supply of roasted nuts and seeds. This city attracts visitors from home and abroad.

Chongqing Zoo. Located at Yangjiaping of the Jiulongpo District of Chongqing City, Chongqing Zoo is 8 km (5 miles) from the city center. It was first built in 1953 and officially opened to the public in

1955. Covering an area of 45 hectares (111 acres), it is not only an attractive place for animals visiting, but also an important base for the protection and research of the immigrant wild animals.

People's Assembly Hall. located on Renmin Road in downtown Chongqing, faces Chongqing Three Gorges Museum across Renmin Square. Standing majestically in the city center, it is a landmark building in this city and considered as one of the ten cultural symbols of Chongqing. From a distance, the grand hall dominates the skyline.

Other Things to Experience



Yangtze River Cruise. Yangtze River Cruise will take you through the cradle of China, while giving you the opportunity to see some spectacular scenery.

Hot Springs. Chongqing is recognised as a renowned area for hot springs. There are dozens of options ranging from large complexes with their own hotels, ornate gardens and spa treatments, to smaller community based hot springs. Northern Hot Springs Park, Tianci Hot Springs and Southern Hot Springs Park are the largest of these facilities. There are special tourist buses available to these sites.

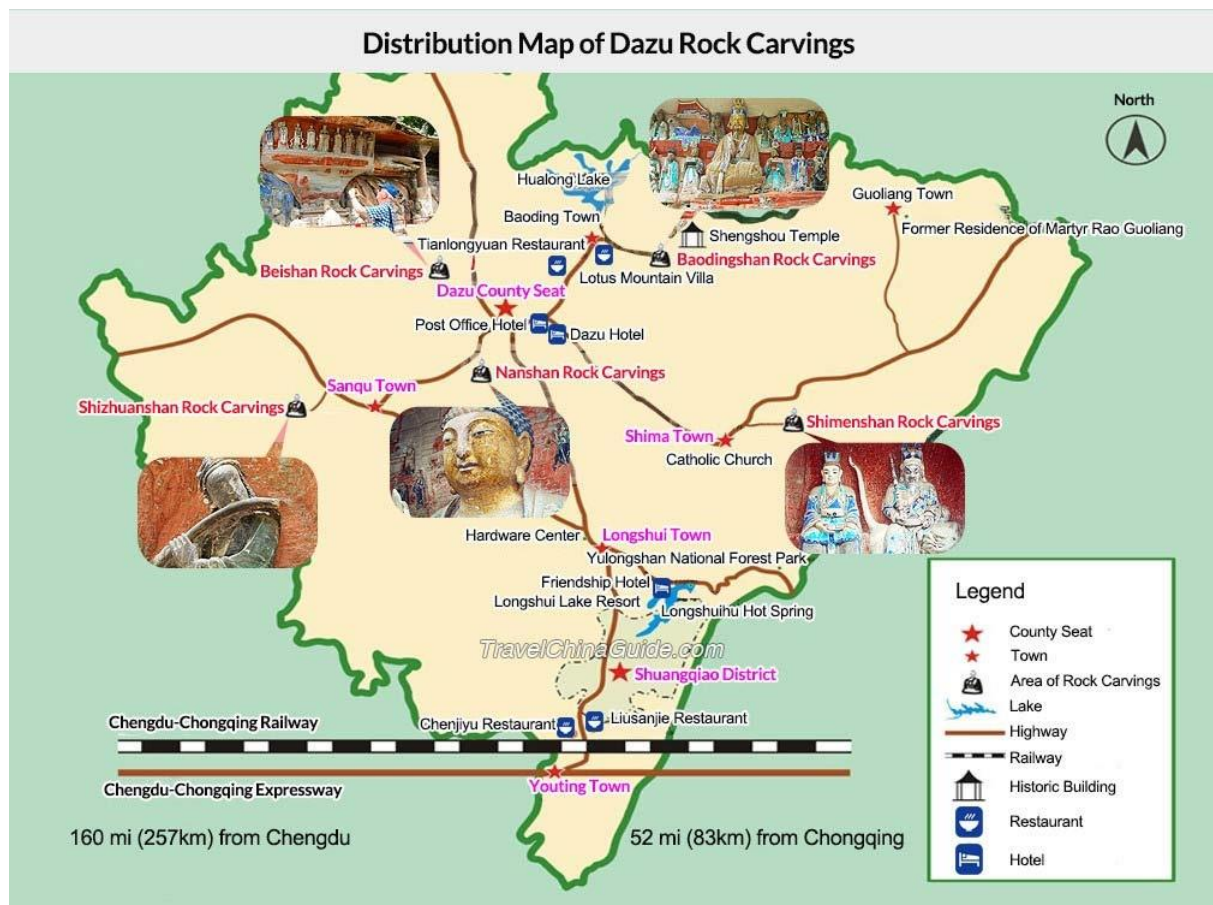
Caiyuanba Escalator. Claimed to be the longest single escalator in Asia, it saves travelers having to climb the steep steps, hundreds of metres up or down between the train station & Chang Jiang Yi Road. Curiously it is a paid service in both directions.

Changjiang River Cableway. There is one cable car ride over the Yangtze River, another over the Jialing river is no longer in operation. A round-trip 5-minute cableway ride gives a great view of the city, though there is little to do on the other side. The Cableway gained tremendous popularity recently. Waiting time in lines can be up to several hours during peak hours in holiday seasons.

Outside the downtown area

Outside the downtown area, you can find many places worth visiting. They offer spectacular UNESCO Heritage sites or national parks of unique landscapes or landforms.

Dazu Rock Carvings. Approximately one-hour drive west of downtown Chongqing, you can find the Dazu Rock Carvings. The spectacular Buddhist carvings dated from the 9th to the 13th century and are listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites. There is also a fascinating temple complex within the premise. The caves can be reached by bus from the main long-distance bus station in Chongqing (Chen Jiaping). For more information see the main Dazu Rock Carvings article.



Wulong Karst National Geology Par. Wulong Karst National Geology Park, an important part of South China Karst, is situated at the lower reaches of the Wujiang River in southeast Chongqing. It was named as a world natural heritage by UNESCO in 2007. Wulong Karst features spectacular karst landscapes, including the three main parts of Furong Cave, Three Natural Bridges, Houping Giant Doline (Houping Tiankeng) and other scenic spots.

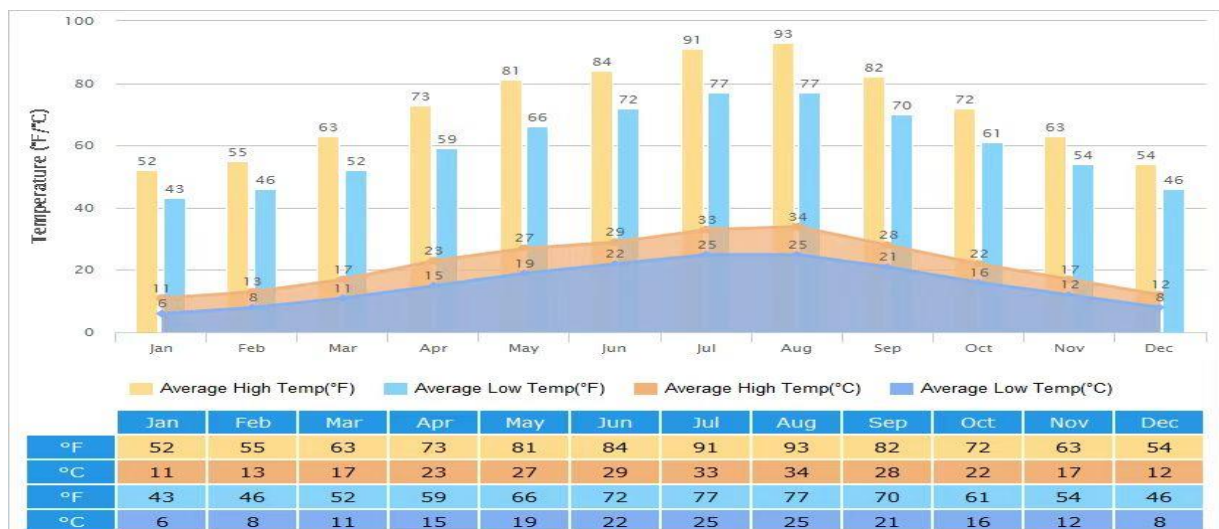
Jinfo Mountain. Jinfo Mount is located in Nanchuan District. Literally, it means "Golden Buddha Mountain" in Chinese. The mountain gained its name because it will look like a giant shining Buddha when the sun shines upon. You can see green trees, clear streams and splendid waterfalls as well as plank roads there.

Transportation

Servicing western China, Chongqing provides convenient water, land, and air transportation in and out. Fast developing urban transport systems such as city-bus and subway makes traveling easy and comfortable. As a starting city for a Yangtze River Cruise, it meets thousands of traveler's homes and abroad each year.

Weather

In brief, Chongqing climate is as follows: early spring, hot summer, cool autumn and warm winter, with a long frost-free period and abundant rainfall. Every year when spring is yielding to summer there is a great amount of night rain, and thus the city is famous for its 'night rain in the Ba Mountains'. On average, it has about 100 foggy days annually, so it is also famous as the 'capital of fog'.



Dining

Chongqing is famous for its hot Sichuan cuisine and world-famous hot pot. Various brands of hot pot restaurants can be found throughout the city. The food is delicious even in very small restaurants. Street vendors as well as restaurants feature exciting spicy delicacies for the gourmets. Bayi Food Street in the city center is the best place to taste the spicy local snacks.



Since the catering business is thriving in this city, many food streets are forming gradually and naturally. Jiefangbei CBD, Nanbin Road, and Bayi Street teem with street vendors and restaurants. Many local specialties like tea-smoked duck, dry-stewed fish, chicken with spring water, Dan Dan spicy noodle, etc. are worth tasting, but only if you are adventurous with hot and spicy experiences!

Western Food

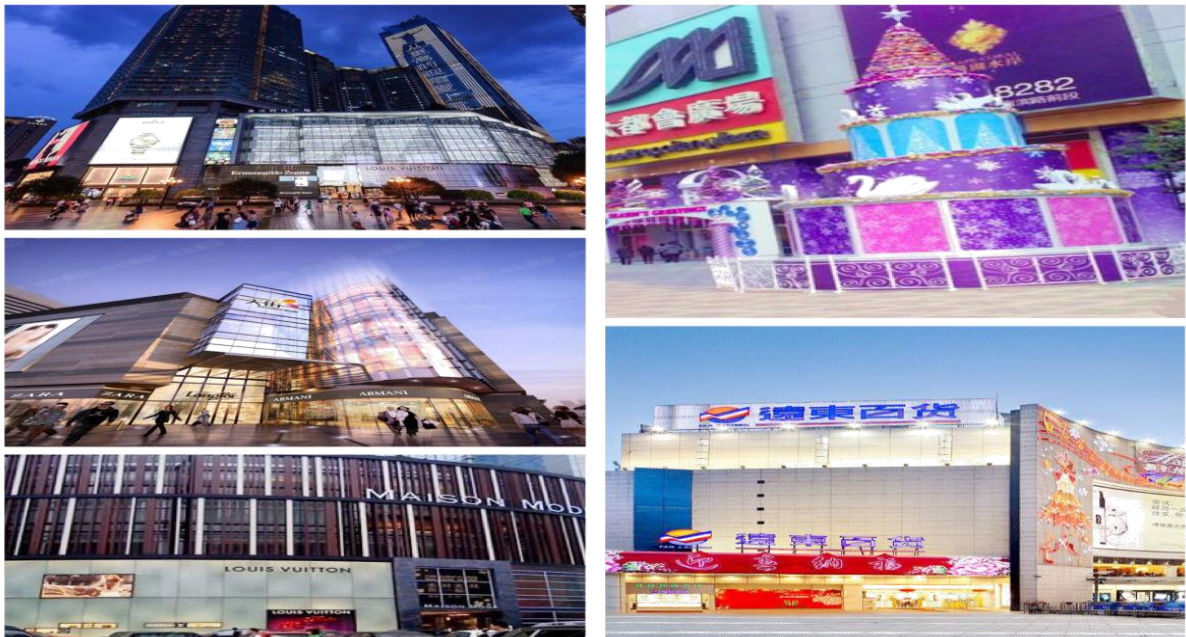
There are many "Western Restaurants." You can find quite nice fusion dishes (ranging from Japanese Sushi and Tempura to American Sirloin Steak).



As Chongqing becomes more international and open to the world, it gets easier to find authentic international food that makes you feel like home. Restaurants run by Italian chefs are booming in recent years thanks to the Italian consulate of Chongqing. You'll certainly find good quality food with reasonable price in major shopping malls.

Shopping

Shopping malls are ubiquitous in Chongqing, often in massive scales and offering wide range of products and entertainment services. There is at least one major shopping area in each downtown district, featuring pedestrian street and outdoor shopping experience. Jiefangbei CBD is the most distinguished and upscale, where a multitude of department stores, local products stores, supermarkets, and restaurants can be easily found.



Times Square. One of the earliest luxury shopping malls in Jiefangbei CBD featuring designer brand boutiques, international restaurants, western supermarket and fitness gym.

Paradise Walk. Located in Guanyinqiao shopping area of Jiangbei District, Paradise Walk is the most successful mall catering to younger generation. The mall tends to be crowded over weekends and holidays. The first Apple store is also here.

Maison Mode Times. Located in the pedestrian street of Jiefangbei, Maison Mode can be the most luxury department store in this city with nice environment. It gathers many domestic and exotic famous brands. Sometimes there are commodities on sales in the basement.

Metropolitan Plaza (Pacific Department Store). It can be one of the earliest modern fashion malls in the city. There are shops in the third floor serving various delicacies. A popular skating rink can be found in the top floor. It neighbors the Pacific Department Store and customers can get around between them freely. They are all included to the detail and department stores business of the Far Eastern Group.

Far Eastern Department Store. As another department store of Far Eastern Group with nice shopping environment, it is among the top market places for shopping in Jiangbei District of Chongqing.

Food Shopping

Carrefour (家乐福 Jia Le Fu)

Huge international supermarket chain store with a good range of dairy, breads and basic international foodstuffs.

Wal-Mart (沃尔玛 Wo Er Ma)

Huge international supermarket chain store.

Metro Supermarket (麦德龙超市 Mai De Long Chao Shi)

This huge supermarket has the biggest selection of western goods available. Shoppers are required to have a membership card before purchasing goods.

Hospital

The following is a list of hospitals in Chongqing where there are English-speaking doctors and provide medical care and services to foreigners.

Jinshan International Hospital

Location - Yubei Economic Development Zone, 39 Yuanyang Lake, Yubei Economic Development Zone, Chongqing

Tel: 023-65659393

Night life

Nightlife is colorful here. Having hot pot at a riverside restaurant or heading for night food markets are highly recommended. The wonderful cruise on the Yangtze and Jialing Rivers provides a fantastic chance to appreciate the city's enchanting night view.

Scattered colorful lights make the city beautiful and make you fall in love with it. Plenty of pubs or nightclubs are also available.

The major areas for clubs and bars are 9 Street (九街) near Guanyinqiao and Jiaochangkou (较场口) near Jiefangbei. You can also find many decent lounge bars with spectacular city views and live music.



Space Plus. It's rated as a World Top 100 club by DJ MAG

NUTS Live House. NUTS is a great place to meet local rock bands and EDM artists.

Flavor Lounge. This cozy bar is owned by an award-winning bartender. It offers top quality liquors and amazing cocktails with a local twist.

The Harp Irish Pub. This is where all the expats in Chongqing now hang out. It has sports TV, 7 beers on tap, and 30+ imported beers, 16 single malt scotches, 15 vodkas, 8 gins, etc. Great food, and English-speaking staff make this a winner in Chongqing.

"BIK Chongqing school is located in the center of the city and it is very convenient to go to many more enjoyable places!"