

Chengdu Travel Guide

Chengdu: The Land of Abundance and Giant Pandas
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Things to do in Chengdu

Landmarks & Monuments

Chengdu is home to iconic landmarks that blend ancient heritage with modern development, from Buddhist temples to historical gates that have shaped the city's cultural identity.



Must See
Wuhou Shrine (Temple of Marquis of Wu)
2 hours No Booking Needed



A sacred temple dedicated to Zhuge Liang, the legendary strategist of the Three Kingdoms period. This **well-preserved complex** features beautiful gardens, ancient halls, and historical artifacts spanning over 1,700 years. The shrine showcases exquisite architecture and serves as a pilgrimage site for history enthusiasts.



Must See
Jinsha Site Museum
2.5 hours No Booking Needed



An archaeological museum showcasing artifacts from the ancient Jinsha civilization dating back 3,200 years. The museum features **gold masks, pottery, and bronze items** that reveal the sophistication of this lost culture. Interactive exhibits and reconstructions bring history to life with stunning visual presentations.



Top Pick
Dufu Thatched Cottage
1.5 hours No Booking Needed



The reconstructed home of Tang Dynasty poet Du Fu, one of China's greatest poets. Set in **tranquil gardens** with museums dedicated to his life and works. This peaceful retreat offers insight into ancient literary culture and features poetry inscriptions throughout the grounds.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Visit Wuhou Shrine early morning to avoid crowds and enjoy peaceful gardens
- Combine visits to multiple temples on the same day using public transport
- Photography is typically allowed; check specific rules at each site



Museums & Galleries

Chengdu's museums offer comprehensive collections showcasing provincial history, art, and culture with excellent displays and interactive exhibits.



Must See Book Ahead

Sichuan Museum

3 hours Book Ahead



Map

The provincial museum featuring **extensive collections of bronze vessels, Buddhist sculptures, and historical artifacts**. The museum's layout covers Sichuan's history from ancient times to the modern era. Free admission with excellent English descriptions of major exhibits makes it highly accessible for international visitors.



Top Pick

Chengdu Contemporary Art Center

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A modern facility showcasing **contemporary Chinese art, international exhibitions, and local artistic talent**. The center features rotating exhibits, artist workshops, and cultural events. The architecture itself is a work of art, making it a hub for creative expression in Chengdu.



Top Pick

Chengdu Handicraft Museum

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

Dedicated to showcasing Sichuan's traditional crafts including **embroidery, lacquerware, bamboo weaving, and woodcarving**. Live demonstrations show artisans at work. The museum gift shop offers authentic handicrafts, making it ideal for discovering unique souvenirs.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Book Sichuan Museum online in advance during peak season
- Allow 2-3 hours for the Sichuan Museum's main collections
- Many museums offer free entry but require advance registration
- Most museums close on Mondays; plan accordingly



Religious Sites

Chengdu's temples and religious sites represent centuries of Buddhist and Taoist traditions, featuring serene architecture and spiritual significance.



Must See

Wenshu Monastery

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A stunning **Buddhist temple established in the Tang Dynasty**, dedicated to Wenshu (Manjusri), the bodhisattva of wisdom. The monastery features beautiful halls, tranquil courtyards, and an on-site vegetarian restaurant. The complex remains an active place of worship with monks in residence.



Top Pick

Qingyang Palace

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Chengdu's largest and most important **Taoist temple**, dedicated to Laozi the founder of Taoism. The palace showcases intricate architecture, religious artworks, and ceremonial spaces. Active Taoist practices continue here, providing authentic insight into Chinese spiritual traditions.



Top Pick

Baoguang Monastery

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

An ancient Buddhist temple featuring **intricate stone pagodas and serene gardens**. The monastery is renowned for its architectural beauty and peaceful atmosphere. Located outside the city center, it attracts fewer tourists, offering a more contemplative experience.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Remove shoes when entering temple halls; sandals recommended
- Dress respectfully; cover shoulders and knees
- Photography may be restricted in certain areas; always ask permission
- Visit early morning for meditative atmosphere and fewer crowds



Parks & Gardens

Chengdu's parks offer peaceful green spaces, botanical collections, and recreational areas perfect for relaxation and nature appreciation.



Must See

Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding

3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The world's premier **giant panda research and breeding facility** with over 100 pandas in naturalistic habitats. Visitors can observe pandas at close range, learn about conservation efforts, and even participate in panda keeper experiences. The facility combines education with animal welfare excellently.



Must See

Broad and Narrow Alley Park (Kuanzhai Xiangzi)

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Historic district adjacent to parks featuring **preserved Ming and Qing dynasty architecture with boutiques and tea houses**. The alleyways showcase traditional Chengdu culture with modern amenities. Perfect for exploring local crafts, dining, and experiencing authentic city charm.



Top Pick

People's Park

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Chengdu's main urban park featuring **landscaped gardens, tea houses, and recreational spaces**. The park is a gathering place for locals, offering glimpses of everyday Chengdu life. The scenic lake and century-old tea culture make it an ideal spot for relaxation and people-watching.



Top Pick

Chengdu Botanical Garden

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A comprehensive botanical garden featuring **diverse plant collections, themed garden sections, and exhibition greenhouses**. The garden includes bamboo groves, medicinal plants, and seasonal flower displays. Perfect for nature photography and botanical education.



Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Visit the Panda Base early morning (8-10 AM) when pandas are most active
- Wear comfortable walking shoes for exploring parks and gardens
- Bring sun protection; Chengdu parks have limited shade in summer
- Tea houses in parks are perfect for afternoon relaxation



Neighborhoods & Districts

Explore Chengdu's vibrant neighborhoods that showcase traditional culture, modern development, and authentic local life.



Must See

Chunxi Road

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Chengdu's premier **shopping and entertainment district** featuring luxury brands, traditional shops, and restaurants. The pedestrian street is vibrant day and night with excellent people-watching opportunities. Modern high-rises blend with historic architecture, representing Chengdu's evolution.



Top Pick

Yulei Market (Yulin Road)

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Chengdu's famous **late-night food and nightlife street** with street vendors, restaurants, and bars. The bustling atmosphere comes alive after 9 PM with locals enjoying spicy Sichuan cuisine and drinks. This is authentic Chengdu culture at its liveliest.



Top Pick

Taikooli (Taikoo Li Chengdu)

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A modern lifestyle complex featuring **upscale shopping, dining, and entertainment** in a contemporary design setting. The area includes international brands, trendy restaurants, and cultural spaces. Popular with younger demographics and those seeking modern Chengdu.



Notable

Jiuyanqiao Creative District

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

An emerging **creative hub with art galleries, design studios, and hipster cafes**. The neighborhood showcases Chengdu's contemporary artistic scene with murals, installations, and independent shops. Perfect for experiencing the city's younger, creative culture.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Chunxi Road is best visited during evening for vibrant atmosphere
- Yulin Road gets crowded after 10 PM; go earlier if you prefer a quieter experience
- Mobile payment (WeChat Pay, Alipay) is essential in shopping districts
- Street vendors at Yulin Road may have limited English; bring translation app



Tours & Activities

Engage in memorable experiences that provide deeper insights into Chengdu's culture, nature, and traditions.



Must See Book Ahead

Panda Keeper Experience

Full day (7 hours) Book Ahead

An exclusive **hands-on experience where you work alongside professional panda keepers** for a full day. Activities include feeding pandas, learning about their behavior, and assisting in habitat maintenance. This immersive program offers unparalleled access and unforgettable memories with these beloved animals.



Must See Book Ahead

Traditional Sichuan Opera Performance with Dinner

2.5 hours Book Ahead

Experience **authentic Sichuan Opera with traditional cuisine and theatrical effects** including face-changing performances and acrobatics. The performance combines storytelling, music, and martial arts in elaborate costumes. Many venues offer dinner packages featuring classic Sichuan dishes.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Tea Culture and Meditation Class

2 hours Book Ahead

Learn traditional **Chinese tea ceremony and meditation practices** in authentic tea houses. Master instructors explain tea selection, brewing techniques, and philosophy. This immersive experience connects you with centuries-old practices central to Chengdu's leisurely lifestyle.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Sichuan Cuisine Cooking Class

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Master the art of **authentic Sichuan cooking with hands-on preparation and instruction** from professional chefs. Learn about distinctive spices, flavor profiles, and traditional recipes. Classes include market visits and multi-course meal preparation with tasting.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book panda keeper experiences weeks in advance; they fill quickly
- Sichuan Opera performances are best booked through hotels or travel agents
- Tea and cooking classes work best in small groups; find classes with 4-8 participants
- Always confirm activity details and pickup/dropoff locations when booking



Day Trips & Excursions

Explore remarkable destinations within easy reach of Chengdu, offering natural beauty and cultural significance.



Must See

Leshan Giant Buddha

Full day (6-8 hours from Chengdu) No Booking Needed



Map

The world's **largest stone Buddha statue (71 meters tall) carved into a cliff face** during the Tang Dynasty. This UNESCO World Heritage site offers breathtaking views from multiple vantage points including boat trips around the base. The surrounding scenic area includes temples and tea plantations.



Must See

Emei Mountain

Full day to overnight No Booking Needed



Map

One of China's **most sacred Buddhist mountains with temples, cable cars, and stunning panoramic views**. The mountain features hiking trails, Golden Summit sunrise experiences, and diverse vegetation zones. Cable cars make it accessible for various fitness levels.



Must See

Book Ahead

Jiuzhaigou National Park

2-3 days (flight required) Book Ahead



Map

A spectacular **UNESCO World Heritage site featuring pristine lakes, waterfalls, and forest ecosystems** with crystalline turquoise waters. The park showcases incredible natural beauty with seasonal color variations. Best visited in autumn when foliage colors are most vibrant.



Top Pick

Book Ahead

Huanglong National Park

2 days (flight required) Book Ahead



Map

Famous for **travertine pools creating colorful landscape formations at high altitude**. The park features hiking trails through pristine nature with geological wonders. Often combined with Jiuzhaigou visits for comprehensive scenic exploration.



Top Pick

Book Ahead

Kangding Rainbow Mountains

2-3 days Book Ahead



Map

Striking **colorful mountain landscape with vibrant mineral deposits creating rainbow effect**. Located in Tibetan areas, the region offers cultural experiences alongside natural beauty. Higher elevation requires acclimatization; typically visited on 2-3 day trips.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- Leshan and Emei can be combined in one long day trip from Chengdu
- Jiuzhaigou/Huanglong require flights; book accommodations in advance
- Best seasons: Spring (March-May) and Autumn (September-November)
- Mountain areas have altitude; allow acclimatization days for visitors from sea level
- Public buses are cheapest; consider private tours for convenience



Fountains & Public Art

Discover modern public art installations and fountains that showcase Chengdu's contemporary culture and urban design.



Top Pick

Anshun Bridge Area Art Installations

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

Modern **public art exhibits along the Jin River featuring sculptural installations and light displays**. The area has been revitalized with contemporary artworks reflecting Chengdu's cultural evolution. Evening illumination creates spectacular photo opportunities.



Top Pick

New Century Global Centre Fountains

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The world's largest building featuring **spectacular indoor and outdoor fountain displays and light shows**. The architectural marvel includes shopping, entertainment, and exhibition spaces. Fountains perform hourly with synchronized music and lighting effects.



Top Pick

Tianfu Square Public Art

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

The city center square features **contemporary sculptures and installations celebrating Chengdu's identity**. The expansive plaza serves as a gathering space with seasonal art exhibitions. Great views of surrounding skyscrapers and city pulse.

Tips for Fountains & Public Art

- Visit fountains during evening performances for best light shows
- Global Centre is massive; allow 2-3 hours for full exploration
- Tianfu Square offers excellent city photo opportunities during golden hour



Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Chengdu, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Must See

★★★★★ 4.9 (34)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

is a highly-rated restaurant in Chengdu, rated 4.9★ from 34 reviews. Located at M3JV+QQ9, Fu Qing Lu Er Duan, Cheng Hua Qu, Cheng Du Shi, Si Chuan Sheng, China, 610051.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Must See

Ma Wang Zi Chuan Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (103)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Ma Wang Zi Chuan Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Chengdu, rated 4.7★ from 103 reviews. Located at China, Cheng Du Shi, Jin Jiang Qu, CN 1 1 5 : 610023.

Must See

Tivano★★★★★ 4.7 (34)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Tivano is a highly-rated restaurant in Chengdu, rated 4.7★ from 34 reviews. Located at China, Cheng Du Shi, Jin Jiang Qu, CN 81 81 1 : 610023.

Must See

Shuyanfu★★★★★ 4.7 (21)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Shuyanfu is a highly-rated restaurant in Chengdu, rated 4.7★ from 21 reviews. Located at XJP7+JCH, Kang Fu Lu Xia Jie, Du Jiang Yan Shi, Cheng Du Shi, Si Chuan Sheng, China, 611843.

Must See

Kuangzhai Alley Commercial Street★★★★★ 4.7 (43)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Kuangzhai Alley Commercial Street is a highly-rated restaurant in Chengdu, rated 4.7★ from 43 reviews. Located at M372+MJP, Zhai Xiang Zi, Qing Yang Qu, Cheng Du Shi, Si Chuan Sheng, China, 610032.



Must See

Kaojiang Spicy Grilled Fish Heijindian★★★★ 4.6 (26)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Kaojiang Spicy Grilled Fish Heijindian is a highly-rated restaurant in Chengdu, rated 4.6★ from 26 reviews. Located at China, Cheng Du Shi, Jin Jiang Qu, CN 四川省成都市锦江区 1 IFS 17楼 : 610016.

Top Pick

Longsenyuan★★★★☆ 4.4 (30)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Longsenyuan is a highly-rated restaurant in Chengdu, rated 4.4★ from 30 reviews. Located at 58 Qin Tai Lu, 四川省成都市青羊区, Qing Yang Qu, Cheng Du Shi, Si Chuan Sheng, China, 610032.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Top Pick

Qinshanzhai★★★★☆ 4.4 (72)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Qinshanzhai is a highly-rated restaurant in Chengdu, rated 4.4★ from 72 reviews. Located at 247 Wu Hou Ci Da Jie, Gaosheng Bridge, Wu Hou Qu, Cheng Du Shi, Si Chuan Sheng, China, 610093.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM

Top Pick

Xiaomingtang Dandantian Shuimian★★★★☆ 4.4 (30)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Xiaomingtang Dandantian Shuimian is a highly-rated restaurant in Chengdu, rated 4.4★ from 30 reviews. Located at 1 Jiang Jun Jie, 四川省成都市青羊区, Qing Yang Qu, Cheng Du Shi, Si Chuan Sheng, China, 610015.



Top Pick

Chenmapo Sichuan Restaurant★★★★☆ 4.4 (72)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Chenmapo Sichuan Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Chengdu, rated 4.4★ from 72 reviews. Located at 10 Qing Hua Lu, Qing Yang Qu, Cheng Du Shi, Si Chuan Sheng, China, 610032.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Top Pick

Hot pot restaurants in Hong Shu nine new flagship exhibition★★★★☆ 4.3 (33)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Hot pot restaurants in Hong Shu nine new flagship exhibition is a highly-rated restaurant in Chengdu, rated 4.3★ from 33 reviews. Located at 166 Shi Ji Cheng Lu, Wu Hou Qu, Cheng Du Shi, Si Chuan Sheng, China, 610212.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Top Pick

Cacaja Indian Restaurant★★★★☆ 4.2 (38)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Cacaja Indian Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Chengdu, rated 4.2★ from 38 reviews. Located at 60 Ke Hua Bei Lu, Wu Hou Qu, Cheng Du Shi, Si Chuan Sheng, China, 610044.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 9:30 PM



Top Pick

Chenmapo Tofu (Head Store)★★★★☆ 4.2 (75)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Chenmapo Tofu (Head Store) is a highly-rated restaurant in Chengdu, rated 4.2★ from 75 reviews. Located at 51 Dong Hua Men Jie, Luomashi, Qing Yang Qu, Cheng Du Shi, Si Chuan Sheng, China, 610014.

Top Pick

Shunxinglao Tea House★★★★☆ 4.1 (20)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Shunxinglao Tea House is a highly-rated restaurant in Chengdu, rated 4.1★ from 20 reviews. Located at China, Si Chuan Sheng, Cheng Du Shi, Wu Hou Qu, Shi Ji Cheng Lu, 198 -1 : 610212.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Top Pick



★★★★☆ 4.1 (166)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

is a highly-rated restaurant in Chengdu, rated 4.1★ from 166 reviews. Located at 197 Xi Yu Long Jie, Luomashi, Qing Yang Qu, Cheng Du Shi, Si Chuan Sheng, China, 610014.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Practical Information

Best Times to Visit Chengdu

Spring (March-May): Mild temperatures (15-25°C), blooming flowers, and pleasant weather make spring ideal. The city hosts flower festivals during this period. Days are longer and rain is moderate.

Autumn (September-November): Cool temperatures (15-25°C), clear skies, and lower humidity create perfect conditions. This is peak tourist season with excellent visibility for outdoor activities. Mountain day trips are especially rewarding.



Summer (June-August): Hot and humid (25-35°C) with frequent rain. However, fewer tourists visit during this period, allowing easier access to attractions. Air-conditioned venues are essential.

Winter (December-February): Cool and grey (5-15°C) with occasional frost. The city experiences fog and limited sunshine. Heating is limited in many venues, making comfort challenging. Less ideal for outdoor exploration.

Seasonal Considerations: Chengdu's humidity is notably high year-round due to the Sichuan basin geography. The city averages 200+ rainy days annually, so rain gear is always recommended.

Getting Around Chengdu

Metro System: The modern metro covers major tourist areas with 12+ operational lines. Tickets cost ¥2-8 per journey. Fares vary by distance. Cards can be purchased for convenient travel. English signage is available at main stations.

Buses: Extensive bus network covers the entire city with fares of ¥1-3. Bus apps help navigate routes; conductors speak limited English. Buses are crowded during rush hours (7-9 AM, 4-6 PM).

Taxis: Metered taxis are affordable and readily available. Flag fall is ¥7 with subsequent charges. Didi (Chinese Uber) is more reliable for foreigners; requires registration. Always have hotel address written in Chinese.

Bicycle Sharing: Multiple bike-sharing systems (Ofo, Mobike) offer convenient short-distance transport at low cost (¥0.5-2 per ride). Flat terrain makes biking around the city easy.

Airport Transport: Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport is 16 km from city center. Airport shuttle buses (¥10) run every 30 minutes. Metro Line 10 connects airport to downtown. Taxis cost approximately ¥40-50.

Long-Distance Travel: Buses and trains connect to nearby cities. High-speed trains serve Leshan, Emei, and other destinations. Flights are available to Jiuzhaigou and other provinces.

➔ Airport Transfer

Chengdu Tianfu International Airport (TFU) to city center:

- **Metro Line 18 Express:** Direct express service to Chengdu East Railway Station in about 40 minutes, fare around 10 yuan
- **Airport Shuttle Bus:** Scheduled coaches to central Chunxi Road area in roughly 70 minutes, tickets about 25 yuan
- **Taxi:** Metered ride to the city center takes about 50 minutes and costs roughly 130 to 150 yuan
- **Private Transfer:** Pre-booked car service to your hotel in about 50 minutes for a fixed rate near 250 yuan

Shopping in Chengdu

What to Buy: Tea is the top souvenir—Longjing and Dragon Well are premium choices. Sichuan embroidery showcases intricate traditional craftsmanship. Bamboo products, lacquerware, and silk textiles are authentic local crafts. Chengdu-style furniture and woodcarvings make unique purchases.

Key Shopping Districts: **Chunxi Road** features international brands alongside local shops. **Kuanzhai Xiangzi** (Broad and Narrow Alley) offers traditional handicrafts and antiques in atmospheric lanes. **Taikoo Li** caters to high-end shoppers with luxury brands. **Huimin Street** specializes in traditional crafts and souvenirs.

Markets: **Hongxing Square Market** offers fresh local products and souvenirs at lower prices. **Lantern Festival Market** (seasonal) features temporary stalls with handicrafts and food. Night markets like **Yulin Road** combine shopping with street food experiences.

Bargaining Tips: Haggling is expected at markets and small shops but not in malls. Start with 60-70% of asking price for handicrafts. Food and packaged goods have fixed prices. Establish rapport before negotiating seriously.

Payment Methods: WeChat Pay and Alipay are universal and preferred. Credit cards work at large shops and hotels but not everywhere. Cash (RMB) is still accepted but less common. ATMs are abundant throughout the city.



Festivals & Events in Chengdu

Spring Festival (January-February): China's most important holiday with temple fairs, traditional performances, and family celebrations. Many attractions remain open with special programming. Hotels are crowded; book well in advance.

Lantern Festival (February-March): Celebrated 15 days after Spring Festival with decorative lantern displays and cultural performances throughout the city. Major lantern shows light up temples and public spaces with traditional artistry.

Qingming Festival (April 4-5): Tomb-sweeping festival with family gatherings and temple visits. Parks become gathering places; attraction crowds increase noticeably.

Dragon Boat Festival (June): Traditional celebration with dragon boat races on rivers, special zongzi (glutinous rice dumplings), and cultural events. The festival combines sporting activities with culinary traditions.

Mid-Autumn Festival (September-October): Celebrated with mooncakes, lanterns, and family gatherings. Public spaces host lantern displays and cultural performances. Mid-range crowds at attractions.

Chengdu Panda Festival (Annual): Dedicated celebration of Sichuan's iconic pandas with special exhibitions, educational programs, and cultural events at the panda research base and throughout the city.

Summer Culture Festival (July-August): Music performances, art exhibitions, and cultural activities throughout the city. Open-air concerts and street performances are common during this period.

5-Day Chengdu Itinerary

Day 1: Iconic Chengdu Heritage

- Morning: Visit **Wuhou Shrine** (2 hours) exploring ancient temples and historical artifacts
- Afternoon: Wander through **Kuanzhai Xiangzi** (Broad and Narrow Alley) for traditional architecture and local culture (2 hours)
- Evening: Dinner at traditional tea house in Kuanzhai Xiangzi followed by evening stroll along Jin River

Day 2: Pandas & Nature

- Early Morning: Visit **Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding** (3-4 hours) when pandas are most active
- Afternoon: Rest at **People's Park** enjoying tea culture (1.5 hours)
- Evening: **Sichuan Opera Performance with Dinner** experiencing traditional arts (2.5 hours)

Day 3: Culture & Art

- Morning: **Sichuan Museum** exploring provincial history and artifacts (3 hours)
- Afternoon: **Jinsha Site Museum** learning about ancient civilization (2 hours)
- Evening: Explore **Jiuyanqiao Creative District** with contemporary art galleries and trendy cafes

Day 4: Religious Sites

- Morning: **Wenshu Monastery** experiencing Buddhist traditions (1.5 hours)
- Afternoon: **Qingyang Palace** exploring Taoist heritage (1.5 hours)
- Late Afternoon: **Dufu Thatched Cottage** appreciating literary history (1.5 hours)
- Evening: Relax at specialty tea house with river views

Day 5: Food & Markets or Day Trip

- **Option A - Food Experience**: Market visit followed by cooking class (4 hours), then explore **Yulin Road** late-night food scene
- **Option B - Leshan Day Trip**: Early departure to **Leshan Giant Buddha** (6-8 hours), return evening
- **Option C - Relaxation**: Botanical garden visit (2 hours), shopping at **Chunxi Road** (2 hours), final evening at authentic tea house



Best Photography Locations in Chengdu

Golden Hour at Jin River: The riverside promenade near Anshun Bridge offers stunning golden hour reflections during sunset (5:30-7 PM). Modern bridges and ancient pagodas create dramatic compositions. Water reflections amplify the visual impact.

Kuanzhai Xiangzi Architecture: Traditional Ming and Qing dynasty buildings provide excellent cultural photography opportunities throughout the day. Early morning (7-9 AM) offers soft light with fewer crowds. Narrow lanes create intimate compositions.

Panda Research Base: Capture adorable pandas in natural settings during feeding time (8-10 AM). Bamboo groves create authentic backgrounds. Overcast mornings reduce harsh shadows while showing panda behavior clearly.

Wuhou Shrine Temples: Ornate temple architecture and peaceful courtyards offer spiritual photographs. Golden afternoon light (3-5 PM) illuminates intricate details beautifully. Misty mornings create atmospheric compositions.

Tianfu Square Skyline: Modern city panorama during dusk (5:30-7 PM) with illuminated skyscrapers reflected in fountains. Blue hour photography (7-8 PM) captures vibrant city lights against twilight sky.

New Century Global Centre: Unique architectural photography opportunities, especially at night when exterior lighting creates dramatic effects. Interior fountain displays photograph well with wide-angle lenses.

Botanical Garden Spring Blooms: Cherry blossoms and azaleas peak in spring (March-April). Overcast conditions provide even lighting for flower photography without harsh shadows. Early morning mist adds atmospheric depth.

Street Food at Yulin Road: Vibrant evening scenes capture authentic Chengdu culture (9 PM onwards). Warm lighting from street vendors creates inviting photographs. Ask permission before photographing food vendors and locals.

Chengdu Botanical Garden at Sunrise: Golden light filters through trees creating beautiful textured photographs. Peaceful early morning hours offer solitude for landscape and macro photography. Bamboo groves are particularly photogenic.

Electricity & Power in Chengdu

Voltage & Frequency: Chengdu uses 220V AC with 50Hz frequency. This is standard throughout mainland China. Devices from countries using 110V may not be compatible without voltage conversion.

Plug Types: China primarily uses Type A (two flat parallel pins), Type C (two round pins in line), Type I (two flat parallel angled pins and grounding pin), and Type B (three rectangular pins) plugs. No single universal standard exists; multiple outlet types are common in the same building.

Adapters & Converters: Purchase a multi-adapter supporting types A, C, and I before arrival. These are inexpensive (¥30-100) and widely available in China. USB power adapters work with any voltage globally—highly recommended for phone and tablet charging.

Power Reliability: Electricity supply is reliable throughout Chengdu with rare outages. Hotels, restaurants, and shopping centers have consistent power. Power surges occur occasionally; surge protectors are advisable for electronics.

Charging Options: Hotels provide charging points in rooms. Coffee shops and restaurants throughout the city offer USB charging. Power banks are inexpensive (¥50-150) and convenient for sightseeing days.

Battery Considerations: If bringing specialized electronics (medical devices, specific power requirements), bring extra batteries and backup devices. Service centers may be limited for non-standard equipment.

Chengdu Cuisine & Dining Guide

Must-Try Dishes: **Mapo Tofu** (spicy pork and tofu) is Chengdu's signature dish—numbing and fiery flavors define Sichuan cuisine. **Kung Pao Chicken** (gongbao jiding) combines peanuts with spicy sauce elegantly. **Chongqing Chicken** (la zi ji) features tender meat buried in chili peppers for adventurous palates.



Specialty Items: **Hot Pot** is a communal dining experience where diners cook raw ingredients in simmering broth at the table. **Chengdu Dumplings** in various styles showcase local culinary skill. **Rabbit Head Snacks** (tu tou) are surprisingly popular local delicacies.

Sichuan Peppercorn Effects: The distinctive tingling sensation (hua) comes from peppercorns, not actual heat. This numbing effect is less intense than chili peppers but creates a unique mouthfeel. First-time diners should prepare for the unusual sensation.

Street Food Culture: **Yulin Road** is famous for late-night street food with hundreds of vendor stalls. **Zhu Er Zi** (braised pig ears) and **Xiang La Crab** are popular choices. **Lantern Festival Markets** (seasonal) offer diverse street snacks in festive settings.

Dining Tips: Restaurants typically close between 2-5 PM. Dinner service begins around 5 PM. Chopsticks are standard; forks are available upon request. Tipping is not customary. Water is safe to drink; hot tea is offered at restaurants free.

Restaurant Types: **Family-style restaurants** offer dishes shared among groups (best for experiencing variety). **Hotpot restaurants** range from basic to upscale with premium broths. **Casual noodle shops** provide fast, affordable meals. **Fine dining venues** offer elevated Sichuan cuisine with refined presentations.

Ordering Guidance: Many restaurants lack English menus; photography of other tables or menu translation apps are helpful. Specify spice level when ordering: "wei la" (mildly spicy), "la" (spicy), "hen la" (very spicy). Gesturing works when language fails.

Budget Guidance: Street food costs ¥5-20. Casual restaurants average ¥30-80 per person. Mid-range restaurants cost ¥80-150 per person. Fine dining exceeds ¥200 per person. Vegetarian options exist but are limited in traditional restaurants.

Tourist Passes

Sichuan Museum Free Entry

Free admission to Sichuan Museum with advance registration (available online or at entrance). The museum features world-class collections spanning Sichuan's history. **Highly recommended** for comprehensive cultural education. Visits typically require 2-3 hours for main galleries.



www.scmuseum.cn

Panda Base Admission

Standard admission to **Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding costs ¥58** with discounts for students. Panda keeper experiences cost extra (¥600-1200 depending on duration). The base admission includes access to all panda habitats, breeding facility exhibitions, and educational displays. Annual passes (¥200) suit repeat visitors.



www.panda.org.cn

Chengdu City Tourist Card

The tourist card (¥99-199) provides **discounts or free entry to major attractions** including museums, temples, and parks. The card typically offers 30-50% discounts at partner venues. Purchase at hotels or tourist information centers. Evaluate if your itinerary justifies the cost based on planned attractions.

Metro Transportation Card

Rechargeable metro card (¥20-50 balance) offers convenient unlimited travel on Chengdu's metro system and buses. Cards are purchased at metro stations with minimal deposit. Electronic payment through mobile apps (alipay, WeChat) also works directly.



Leshan & Emei Mountain Combined Ticket

Day trip packages (¥200-400) typically include **transportation from Chengdu, Leshan Giant Buddha admission (¥90), cable car (¥30-40), and sometimes Emei Mountain entry (¥150)**. Booking through travel agencies or hotels often provides better rates than purchasing tickets individually. Time management is critical for day trips covering both locations.

