



Ānhuī

POP 64.1 MILLION

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Best Mountains

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- ➔ Qíyún Shān (p393)

Best Villages

- ➔ Xīdì (p394)
- ➔ Hóngcūn (p395)
- ➔ Chéngkǎn (p397)

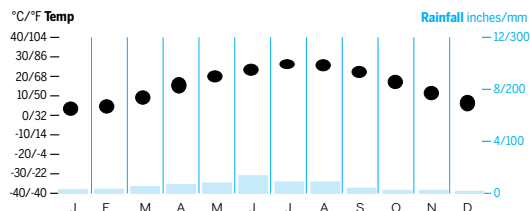
Why Go?

Well-preserved villages and fantastical mountain scapes are the principal draw for visitors to Ānhuī (安徽). The main attraction of this southern Huīzhōu region is unquestionably Huángshān, a jumble of sheer granite cliffs wrapped in cottony clouds that inspired an entire school of ink painting during the 17th and 18th centuries. But the often overlooked peaks of nearby Jiǔhuá Shān, where Buddhists bless the souls of the recently departed, are much quieter, with a hallowed aura that offers a strong contrast to Huángshān's stunning natural scenery.

At the foot of these ranges are strewn the ancient villages of Huīzhōu; their distinctive whitewashed walls and black-tiled roofs stand out against a verdant backdrop of green hills and terraced tea gardens. Ānhuī's lush mountains and slower pace of life are the perfect antidote to the brashness of China's larger cities.

When to Go

Túnxī



Mar Pack a camera to catch the flowering yellow rapeseed around Shèxiàn.

Oct Autumn days are best for climbing Huángshān.

Dec The snow-capped rooftops of Xīdì's Hui houses look a picture.



Ānhuī Highlights

- 1 Catch the sunrise from the iconic Chinese mountain, **Huāngshān** (p399)
- 2 Explore the grottoes and dilapidated temples at Taoist **Qíyún Shān** (p393)
- 3 Soak up the Ming-dynasty vibe along Túnxī's **Old Street** (p390)
- 4 Join the Buddhist pilgrims at fog-shrouded **Jiùhuá Shān** (p404)
- 5 Don't miss the World Heritage village of **Hóngcūn** (p395)
- 6 Eschew crowds and enjoy authentic village life at **Chéngkǎn** (p397)
- 7 Admire the palette of the colourful gateway to Shūguāngyù Hall in **Píngshān** (p395)
- 8 Seek out the **Pig's Heaven Inn** (p396) in Xidi for a fantastic meal
- 9 Get your camera out at Shèxiàn's astonishing **Tāngyuè Decorative Archways** (p399)