



# Chóngqìng

POP 28.8 MILLION

## Includes ➔

Chóngqìng City	.....772
Dàzú Buddhist Caves	.....783
Zhōngshān	.....784
Sòngji	.....785

## Best for History

- ➔ Dàzú Buddhist Caves (p783)
- ➔ Fishing Town Fortress (p781)
- ➔ Chóngqìng's city gates (p773)

## Best for Scenery

- ➔ Three Gorges (p772)
- ➔ Wǔlóng County National Geology Park (p782)
- ➔ Zhōngshān (p785)

## Why Go?

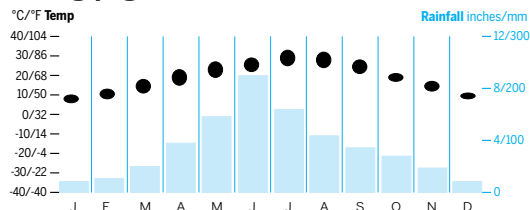
Chóngqìng (重庆) municipality may be a relatively recent creation, having been carved out of Sichuān province in 1997, but with its eponymous city driving the economy of western China, it's now one of the most important regions in the whole country. And, despite its new name, the area it covers has played a significant role throughout Chinese history and remains a place of great natural beauty.

Thanks to the mighty Yangzi River (Cháng Jiāng), which powers its way through here, this region has long been one of strategic military importance. The river was responsible for creating one of China's greatest natural wonders, the magnificent Three Gorges.

Humans have left their indelible mark as well, with a panoply of ancient Buddhist sculptures, dozens of seemingly lost-in-time villages and, of course, the -megapolis that is Chóngqìng: one of the fastest-growing, buzzing cities in all China.

## When to Go

### Chóngqìng



**Apr & May** Winter chill has lifted; full force of summer sweat box yet to arrive, but still rainy.

**Jul & Aug** It's hot; temperatures top 40°C and Chóngqìng City resembles a steam bath.

**Sep & Oct** Manageable temperatures; a good time to explore the countryside.



## Chóngqìng Highlights

- 1 Shift down a gear as you float past the awe-inspiring Three Gorges on a **Yangzi River Cruise** (p776)
- 2 Gasp in wonder at the exquisite ancient artwork of the **Dàzú Buddhist Caves** (p783)
- 3 Explore the wild waterfalls and Karst formations of

### Wúlóng County National Geology Park (p782)

- 4 Tuck into the world's most mouth-numbing hotpot at **Mǎngzǐ** (p778)
- 5 Wander the cobblestones, or chill in a teahouse in the village of **Sōngjī** (p785)
- 6 See traditional wooden stilt

housing in the ancient riverside village of **Zhōngshān** (p785)

- 7 Hike the ruins of **Fishing Town Fortress** (p781), one of China's greatest battlefields
- 8 Pull up a stool and sample the delights of **shāokǎo** (p777), Chóngqìng's no-nonsense streetside barbeques