



Fújiàn

POP 37.2 MILLION

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Best Temples

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Why Go?

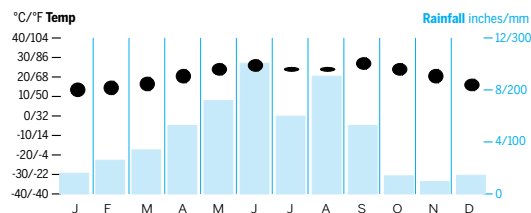
The ancestral home to many overseas Chinese, Fújiàn (福建) on China's southern coast has a strong seafaring disposition and it used to be one of the windows that connected China to the outside world. Once a great emporium in Asia, its multicultural heritage still stands beautifully in Xiàmén and Quánzhōu, where you can glimpse the region's glorious maritime past.

Other standout attractions are the marvellous *tǔlǒu* (roundhouses) in the southwest of the province. Rising like castles on rolling hills, these quirky buildings are Unesco World Heritage-listed. To the northwest, the hill station of Wǔyí Shān offers hiking opportunities aplenty.

The cheerful harbour city of Xiàmén is a welcoming first port of call. From here, you can hop over to the popular isle of Gǔlàng Yǔ, or venture to the intriguing Taiwanese outpost island of Kinmen.

When to Go

Xiàmén



Mar & Apr Beat the summer heat with a springtime visit to the World Heritage-listed *tǔlǒu*.

Jun & Sep Visit the breezy coast of Xiàmén and island-hop in summer or autumn.

Oct Low-season prices and clear mountain air coalesce in the rugged, lush Wǔyí Shān.



Fujian Highlights

- 1 Amble down the alleys in breezy **Xiàmén** (p283), one of China's most attractive cities
- 2 Dream of grand times long gone in **Gǔláng Yǔ** (p289), an island packed with colourful colonial villas
- 3 Explore the region's World Heritage-listed, **Fújiàn Tǔlóu** (p291), massive, semi-

- enclosed earthen edifices that are the ancient equivalents of modern-day condos
- 4 Soak in the lingering traces of China's maritime past in **Quánzhōu** (p294)
- 5 Escape the heat of the plains at the picturesque hill station of **Wúyí Shān** (p299)

- 6 Float on a raft down the **Nine Twists River** (p300) and look for boat-shaped coffins in cavities along the rock faces
- 7 Hop over to pretty **Kinmen** (p288), Taiwan's closest island outpost to China