



Húběi

POP 61.8 MILLION

Includes ➔

Wǔhàn	430
Jīngzhōu	435
Around Jīngzhōu ...	436
Wǔdāng Shān	436
Shénnóngjià	439
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Best for Scenery

- ➔ Shénnóngjià (p439)
- ➔ Wǔdāng Shān (p437)
- ➔ Three Gorges Dam (p440)

Best for History

- ➔ Jīngzhōu (p435)
- ➔ Wǔdāng Shān (p437)
- ➔ Wǔhàn (p430)
- ➔ Húběi Provincial Museum (p430)

Why Go?

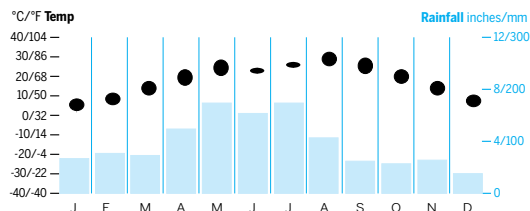
Vast hordes of travellers find themselves drifting into Húběi (湖北) through the magnificent Three Gorges, the precipitous geological marvel that begins in neighbouring Chóngqīng and concludes here. It's a once-in-a-lifetime trip which perfectly introduces Húběi's dramatic natural beauty.

Sliced by rivers (including, of course, the mighty Yangzi) and dappled with lakes, Húběi is largely lush and fertile, but its western regions are dominated by stunning mountain scenery. National parks such as Shénnóngjià are jaw-droppingly spectacular, while the sacred peaks of Wǔdāng Shān add pinches of Taoist mysticism to a sublime landscape.

Húběi's central location ensured it played a key role in Chinese history, with plenty of evidence around the ancient city of Jīngzhōu of the great Chu kingdom that ruled this part of China more than 2000 years ago. China's modern history, meanwhile, is woven into the fabric of Wǔhàn, Húběi's vast, battle-scarred capital city.

When to Go

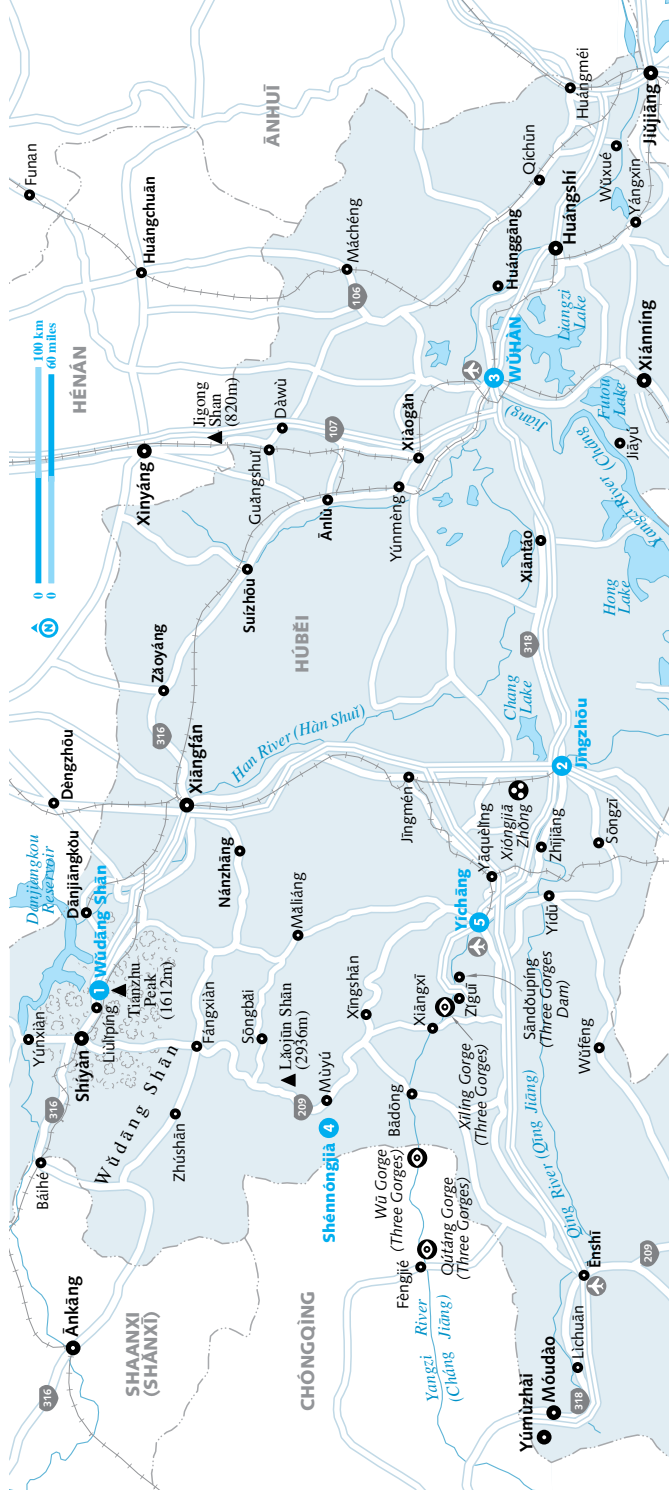
Wǔhàn



Mar & Apr Get in ahead of the draining Yangzi summer, but bring an umbrella.

Sep–Nov The stifling summer heat has finally lifted.

Nov–Mar Wǔdāng Shān at its prettiest, snowiest best. Pack your thermals.



Hubei Highlights

- 1 Study taichi where it all began, on the awe-inspiring mountain slopes of **Wudang Shān** (p437).
- 2 Explore the historic gates, city walls and ruined temples of ancient **Jingzhou** (p435).
- 3 Find a bar and knock back a beer in the riverside concession district of mighty **Wuhan** (p430).
- 4 Flee China's urban sprawl and camp out in the wilds of stunning **Shennongjia** (p439)
- 5 Go against the tourist tide and start your Three Gorges cruise in **Yichang** (p440) rather than Chongqing.