



Ānhuī

POP 66 MILLION

Includes ➔

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Túnxī | 402 |
| Xīdì | 406 |
| Hóngcūn | 407 |
| Píngshān | 408 |
| Shèxiàn | 409 |
| Huángshān | 410 |
| Jiǔhuá Shān | 415 |
| Héféi | 418 |

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Lao Jie Yīlóu Shíyè (p404)
- ➔ Pig's Heaven Inn (p406)
- ➔ Qíyuán Vegetarian (p417)
- ➔ Gǎotāng Húndūn (p403)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Pig's Inn Bishān (p407)
- ➔ Long Lane Inn (p408)
- ➔ Ancient Town Youth Hostel (p403)
- ➔ Imperial Guard Boutique Hotel (p409)

Why Go?

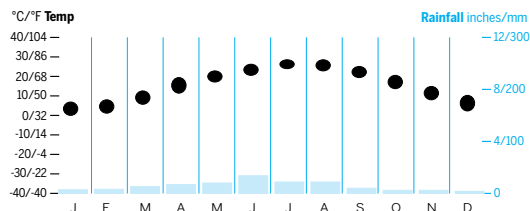
Fantastical mountainscapes and well preserved villages make Ānhuī (安徽) the perfect antidote to the brashness of China's larger cities. The main attraction is unquestionably Huángshān, a jumble of sheer granite cliffs wrapped in cottony clouds that inspired an entire school of ink painting during the 17th and 18th centuries. But the often overlooked peaks of nearby Jiǔhuá Shān, where Buddhists bless the souls of the recently departed, have 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 the province formerly known as Huìzhōu. With distinctive whitewashed walls and black-tiled roofs augmented by lush surroundings of buckling earth, bamboo and pine forest, they are among the most picturesque in the country.

Ānhuī's top sights are clustered in its southeast corner. Easy to navigate and within striking distance of Shànghǎi, this is rural China at its accessible best.

When to Go

Túnxī



Mar & Apr Pack a camera to catch the flowering yellow rapeseed in the villages around Shèxiàn.

Oct Autumn days are best for climbing Huángshān.

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



Ānhuī Highlights

1 Huángshān (p412)

Catching the sunrise from China's iconic mountain.

2 Hóngcūn (p407)

Marvelling at the sophisticated and oh-so-photogenic waterways of an ancient village.

3 Jiǔhuá Shān (p415)

Joining the Buddhist pilgrims in scaling the fog-shrouded peak.

4 Bishān Living the grand life of a Qing dynasty merchant at the Pig's Inn Bishān (p407).

5 Xīdi (p406) Wandering the lanes of a white-walled village, a living museum of traditional architecture.

6 Tāngyuè Memorial Archways (p410) Standing in

awe of this procession of stone archways.

7 Túnxī Old Street (p402)

Sampling Huángshān's famous tea along a lane of restored Qing shopfronts.

8 Qiýún Shān (p405)

Exploring the grottoes and dilapidated temples of this lofty Taoist haven.