



# Chóngqìng

POP 30.17 MILLION

## Includes ➔

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Zēng Lǎo Yáo Yú Zhuāng (p791)
- ➔ Mang Hot Pot (p790)
- ➔ Suzie's Pizza (p791)

## Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Travelling With Hostel (p789)
- ➔ Somerset (p789)
- ➔ Hóngyádòng Hotel (p790)

## Why Go?

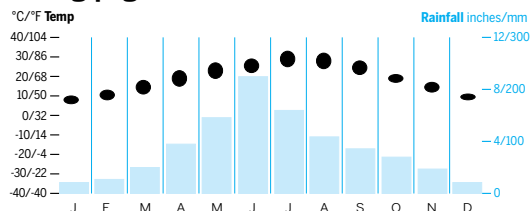
Chóngqìng (重庆) municipality may be a relatively recent creation, having been carved out of Sichuān province in 1997, but with its eponymous city driving the economy of western China, it's now one of the most important regions in the whole country. And, despite its new name, the area it covers has played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



## Chongqing Highlights

- 1 Yangzi River Cruise** (p51) Shifting down a gear or two as you float past the awe-inspiring Three Gorges.
- 2 Dazú Buddhist Caves** (p795) Gazing in wonder at the exquisite artwork of these ancient cliff carvings.
- 3 Wulong County National Geology Park** (p797)

- Exploring the wild waterfalls and karst formations of this mountain wilderness area.
- 4 Mang Hot Pot** (p790) Tucking into the world's most mouth-numbing hotpot at this Chongqing favourite.
  - 5 Ānjū Ancient Town** (p798) Wandering the cobblestones

- of this exquisitely preserved Ming dynasty village.
- 6 Fishing Town Fortress** (p794) Hiking the ruins of one of China's greatest battlefields.
  - 7 Shāokǎo** (p790) Pulling up a stool to enjoy these spicy meat, tofu and veggie skewers, one of Chongqing's greatest street snacks.