

# Guangzhou

Guangzhou, traditionally romanised as Canton, is the capital and most populous city of the province of Guangdong in southern China. Located on the Pearl River about 120 km north-northwest of Hong Kong and 145 km (90 mi) north of Macau, Guangzhou was a major terminus of the maritime Silk Road[8] and continues to serve as a major port and transportation hub. In 2015 the city's administrative area was estimated to have a population of 13,501,100, making it the third largest city in China after Shanghai and Beijing.



Guangzhou is a very modern city with numerous high buildings, shopping centers, theaters, art galleries and museums. The city is also the main manufacturing hub of the Pearl River Delta, one of mainland China's leading commercial and manufacturing regions. In 2013, the GDP reached ¥1542 billion (US\$248 billion), per capita was ¥120,515 (US \$19,459). Mention you are traveling to Guangzhou to most northerners, you will almost expect a remark calling the place 'cultureless'. Its isolation from the rest of 'typical China' by mountainous topography and early exposure to the outside world has resulted in its unique way of lifestyle, liberal ideas, distinctive cuisine and tremendous wealth. However, when you explore in depth, the city is an excellent representative of "Southern" or "Lingnan" cultural areas. Notable aspects of Guangzhou's cultural heritage include:

Guangfu, the local dialect of Cantonese; Yue or Cantonese cuisine, one of China's eight major culinary traditions; Yue or Cantonese opera, usually divided into martial and literary performances and Xiguan, the area west of the former walled city.

Located just south of the Tropic of Cancer, Guangzhou has a humid subtropical climate influenced by the East Asian monsoon. Summers are wet with high temperatures, high humidity, and a

high heat index. Winters are mild and comparatively dry. Guangzhou has a lengthy monsoon season, spanning from April through September. Monthly averages range from 13.6 ° C (56.5 ° F) in January to 28.6 ° C (83.5 ° F) in July, while the annual mean is 22.6 ° C (72.7 ° F). Autumn, from October to December, is very moderate, cool and windy, and is the best travel time.]The relative humidity is approximately 68 percent, whereas annual rainfall in the metropolitan area is over 1,700 mm (67 in). With monthly percent possible sunshine ranging from 17 percent in March and April to 52 percent in November, the city receives 1,628 hours of bright sunshine annually, considerably less than nearby Shenzhen and Hong Kong. Extreme temperatures have ranged from 0 ° C (32 ° F) to 39.1 ° C (102.4 ° F). The last recorded snowfall in the city was on 24 January 2016, 87 years after the second last recorded snowfall.



Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport is 28km north of Guangzhou and is a major hub in Southern China, second only to Hong Kong. The airport is the base for China Southern Airlines and has an extensive range of domestic flights including: Beijing, Changchun, Changsha, Chengdu, Chongqing, Dalian, Daxian, Guiyang, Guilin, Hangzhou, etc. Direct international routes include Amsterdam, Auckland, Bangkok, Brisbane, Busan, Chicago, Dubai, Frankfurt, Fukuoka, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Jakarta, Kathmandu, Kuala Lumpur, Kuwait, London, Los Angeles,

Macau, Manila, Melbourne, Moscow, Mumbai, Nairobi, Paris, Perth, Qatar, Seoul, Singapore, Irkutsk, Sydney, Taipei, Tokyo and Vancouver. Three main train stations- Guangzhou Railway Station, Guangzhou East Railway Station and Guangzhou South Railway Station provide high-speed trains, non-high-speed trains to many neighboring and far away Chinese cities. Inside the city, public transportation system is convenient in Guangzhou. Guangzhou's Metro system opened in 1999 and has been expanding at a breakneck pace ever since, totaling in 9 lines. The network covers much of the city center and is growing rapidly outward. The fare ranges from ¥2 to ¥19. If you stay in Guangzhou for long time, purchase a multi-purpose Ling Nan Tong - Yang Cheng Tong stored value card, which can be used to pay fares in metro, bus and ferries and used for many convenience stores, public phones and vending machines. There is also a comprehensive public bus service that covers Guangzhou from end to end. By far, it is the cheapest way to move around. Bus fares are ¥1 for the older buses and ¥2. Taxis are easy to get and very inexpensive in non-peak hours. During morning and afternoon rush hours, smart phone APPs such as Didi or Yidao are useful for calling taxis.

