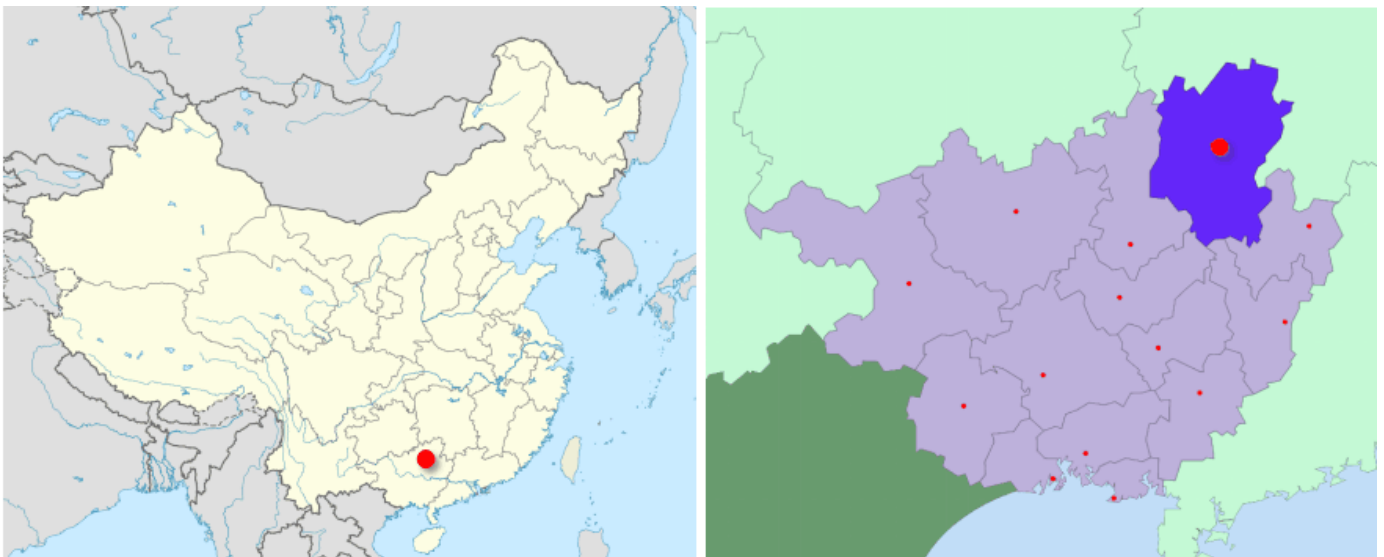


# Guilin

Guilin, formerly romanized as Kweilin, is a prefecture-level city in the northeast of China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. It is situated on the west bank of the Li River and borders Hunan to the north, being home to 4.98 million people. Its name means "Forest of Sweet Osmanthus", owing to the large number of fragrant sweet osmanthus trees located in the city. The city is one of China's most popular tourist destinations and has long been renowned for its scenery of karst topography which is listed as World Nature Heritage by UNESCO.



Guilin has a monsoon-influenced humid subtropical climate, with short, mild winters, and long, hot, humid summers. Winter begins dry but becomes progressively wetter and cloudier. Spring is generally overcast and often rainy, while summer continues to be rainy though is the sunniest time of year. Autumn is sunny and dry. The monthly 24-hour average temperature ranges from 7.9 °C (46.2 °F) in January to 28.0 °C (82.4 °F) in July, and the annual mean is 18.84 °C (65.9 °F). The annual rainfall is just above 1,900 mm (75 in), and is delivered in bulk (~50%) from April to June, when the plum rains occur and often create the risk of flooding. With monthly percent possible sunshine ranging from 14% in March to 53% in September, the city receives 1,487 hours of bright sunshine annually.

The city and the surrounding region are among the most scenic areas in China and the most popular tourist destinations both for Chinese travelers and the international backpacker set. The main attraction is the karst terrain, limestone mountains eroded into fantastic shapes. Guilin itself is The town center is surrounded by two rivers and four lakes and studded with sheer sided karst mountains. Famous attractions include Longji rice terraces, the Lijiang River etc.



There are daily flights to Guilin Liangjiang International Airport (KWL) from major mainland cities and from some other international cities in East Asia and South East Asia. Besides, the city has two train stations. Guilin Station (Guilin Zhan) is in the centre of town on Zhongshan Nanlu while Guilin North Station (Guilin Bei Zhan) is far away from downtown area. Most, but not all, trains which originate/terminate in Guilin go to or come from Guilin North while trains which come through Guilin from elsewhere usually only go to Guilin Station and not Guilin North. High speed trains are now serving Guilin (January 2014) from Nanning to Beijing significantly cutting down journey time (Guilin to Nanning 2 hours), (Guilin to Liuzhou 1 hour) & (Guilin to Beijing 10 hours). Local transportation is convenient. Taxis are also inexpensive and easily hailed within the city. Usually hard to catch during peak hours (5:30PM-7PM). Bus services are available in most of the urban area with very affordable charge.

