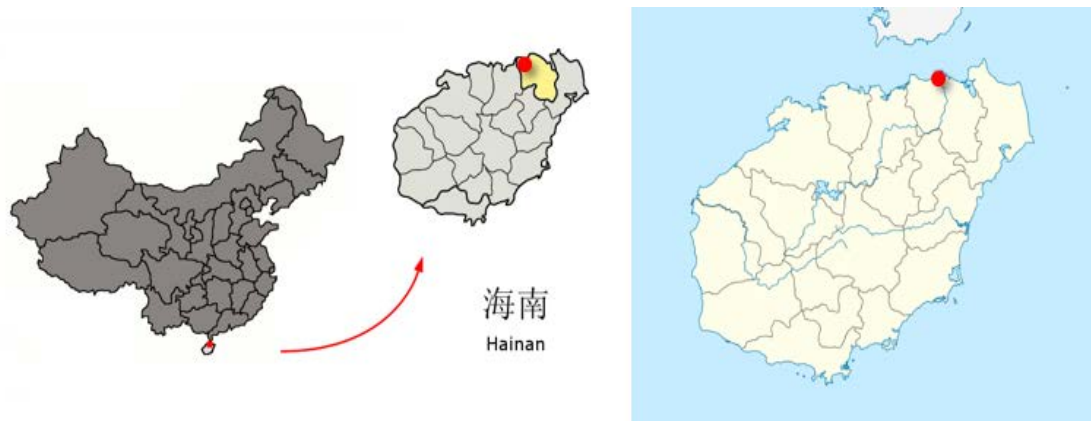


# Haikou

Haikou is a tropical coastal city, situated on the northern coast of Hainan, by the mouth of the Nandu River. The northern part of the city is Haidian Island, which is separated from the main part of Haikou by the Haidian River, a branch of the Nandu. Haikou was originally a port city. Today, it's the capital of Hainan province and the most populous city in the province. The city covers 2,280 square kilometers and is home to around 2 million inhabitants.



Haikou is on the northern edge of the torrid zone, and is part of the inter-tropical Convergence Zone. April to October is the active period for tropical storms and typhoons, most of which occur between August and September. May to October is the rainy season with the heaviest rainfall occurring in September. Despite its location, the city has a humid subtropical climate, falling just short of a tropical climate, with strong monsoonal influences. Nevertheless, the area has hot summers and warm winters, usually with high humidity. Extremes temperatures have ranged from 2.8 to 39.6 °C (37 to 103 °F) From June to October torrential rains may occur, with 7.0 days annually receiving at least 50 mm (1.97 in) of rain; this period accounts for nearly 70 percent of the annual rainfall of 1,650 mm (65 in). With monthly percentage of possible sunshine ranging from 31% in February to 61% in July, the city receives 2,070 hours of bright sunshine annually.

Haikou is a transport hub with flights to many cities and boats to nearby mainland cities such as Beihai and Zhanjiang. Haikou Meilan International Airport is located 20km south-east of Haikou. Local airlines Hainan Airlines and other Airlines have domestic flights to many Chinese cities, as well as some international flights to neighboring countries, such as seoul, Singapore etc. There is a train link between Haikou and Guangdong province. So you can get the train from China mainland to Haikou. A new high-speed railway circling the island is opened, connecting the major towns on the east and west coast of Hainan. Haikou has an extensive urban bus service. Standard fare is 1 yuan, with no bus pass, ticket, or transfer system in place. Taxi and electric motorbikes operate throughout the city.



Haikou has a somewhat laid-back atmosphere but many development projects are in progress. Many streets in Haikou are quite different during the day compared to the evening. Small outdoor restaurants and stalls fill the streets in the evening and many areas are at their busiest from 9.00pm to 1.00am. Local favorites are BBQ stalls which serve cheap local beer till late. Known as the "Coconut city", Haikou is an important tourist destination for China. Old Street, Haikou Shishan Crater Cluster National Geological Park, Dongjiao Coconut Plantation, Wugong Temple etc. are among the most popular tourist attractions.

