

Jetset Journals

no.1

2026

CHENGDU

3 Days

Cityguide



a travel guide

SUMMARY

01.

INTRO

Everything you need to know before your stay in Chengdu.

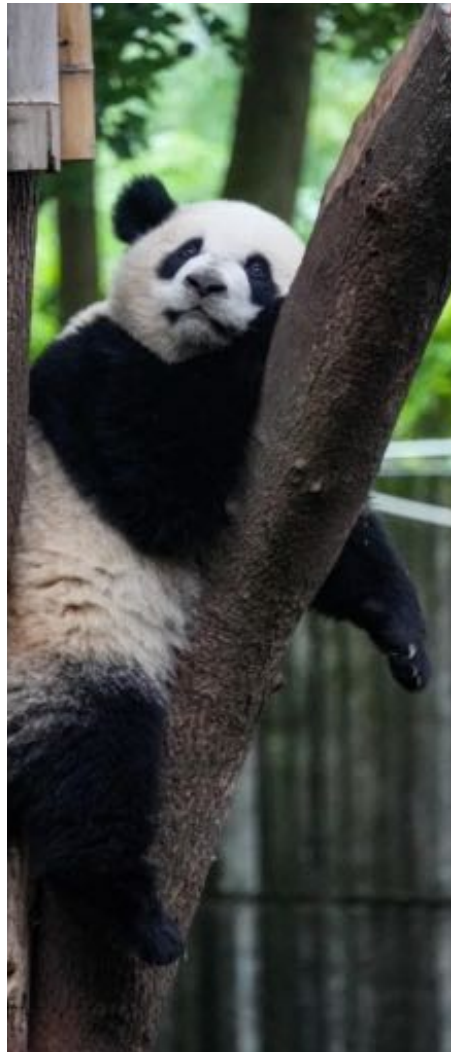
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INTRO

Chengdu—the capital of Sichuan Province—is also known as the "Home of the Pandas" and is famous for its delicious and spicy cuisine and its modern nightlife.

The city is very well connected via Tianfu International Airport and is served by direct flights from other major Chinese cities in particular.

From the airport in Chengdu—as in almost all Chinese cities—it's easy and inexpensive to take a Didi (the Chinese equivalent of Uber), which will take you to the city center in 40–60 minutes. Didi is also the best option for getting from one place to another within the city.

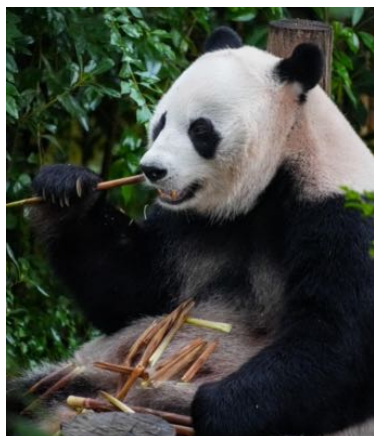
It's important to download the two main payment apps, Alipay and WeChat, in advance and link your credit card to them.

In addition to the three apps mentioned, I can also recommend the eSIM from Airalo, which includes a VPN, because without a VPN, you won't be able to use many Western apps—such as Google Maps—in China. The alternative in China is AMap. You should plan on staying for two to three days.

During this time, you can enjoy the city's modern attractions and culinary highlights, and also visit the Panda Reserve from here.

The drive there takes about 30–40 minutes, depending on traffic.

HIGHLIGHTS



01.

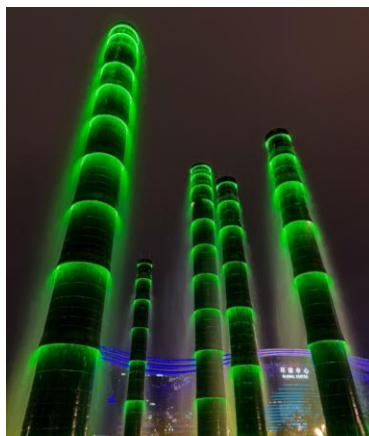
Panda Research Base

It's no coincidence that Chengdu is also known as the home of the pandas.

The Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding plays a major role in this.

This is a nonprofit breeding and research facility for giant pandas and red pandas.

Originally, six pandas rescued from the wild were raised here; today, 200 giant pandas live here.



02.

SKP Mall

The SKP Mall is, first and foremost, exactly that—a large shopping mall—so a visit is well worth it for shopping enthusiasts alone.

However, the illuminated bamboo-shaped water fountains, which glow in different colors at night, are especially popular here after dark.

On AMap, you can find them at the SKP Mall under “The Water Beacons.”



03.

Tianfu Twin Towers

Another state-of-the-art highlight—especially when illuminated at night—is the Tianfu Twin Towers.

You can find them on AMap at the Tianfu International Finance Center.

The Twin Towers are two skyscrapers over 200 meters tall featuring massive LED walls.

Every day between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., impressive, large-scale animations are displayed on the walls.





04.

Anshun Bridge

The Anshun Bridge is another highlight that really catches the eye, especially when it's lit up at night. It was built as early as the 13th century and spans the Jinjiang River.

05.

Global Center

The Global Center is another shopping mall in southern Chengdu, across from the SKP Mall. With over 1.7 million square meters, it is the largest indoor building in the world.

06.

Zhongshuge Bookstore

The Zhongshuge Bookstore has also become well-known through social media and is located a little outside the city. But it's worth the trip just to see the futuristic interior design.

07.

Giant Panda Wall

Another popular spot is the huge LED wall near Chunxi Road in the city center; on AMap, search for a Volvo store on Chunxi Road, where a giant 3D panda moves around.



08.

Chunxi Road

The downtown area and shopping district of Chengdu are centered around Chunxi Road. A giant panda figure is climbing up the wall of the IFS shopping center. You can relax in People's Park and the traditional alleys around Jinli Ancient Street, where the historic Wuhou Temple is also located.



09.

Wenshu Monastery

In addition to all the more futuristic highlights, Chengdu also has traditional sites to offer—such as Wenshu Monastery. The scent of incense fills the air here, and monks pray in the halls.



10.

Food

Like every region in China, Chengdu also has excellent local dishes to offer.

A particularly characteristic feature of Sichuan cuisine is the use of Sichuan pepper. This pepper creates a tingling sensation; while it isn't spicy on its own, it enhances the flavor of all other spices, so that when combined with chili peppers, the food becomes very spicy.



DAY TO DAY

Day 1 – On the first day of our tour, we didn't arrive in Chengdu until late afternoon.

There, we checked into the hotel and went to Chen Mapo Tofu for an early dinner of traditional spicy Sichuan tofu.

Afterward, we drove to the southern part of the city, where we first viewed the bamboo fountains illuminated at night near the SKP Mall and, on the way back, enjoyed the spectacular tower view from the bridge near the Tianfu Twin Towers.

Day 2 – On the second day, we drove to the Giant Panda Reserve first thing in the morning when it opened.

When we got back to the city at noon, we had lunch at Laoyuanba zaijiangmian.

In the afternoon, we strolled down Chunxi Road, passing the IFS shopping center with its giant panda statue and the Panda LED Wall. From there, we went on to Jinli Ancient Street, the Wuhou Temple, and, toward evening, the Anshu Bridge.

For dinner that day, we went to Chunyang Guanyuxiang Paigumian (Jixiang Street Branch).

Day 3 – On Day 3, we started off with a visit to Wenshu Monastery before grabbing some breakfast at Bon Appetit and buying a few souvenirs.

Around noon, we headed back to the airport, from where we flew to our next destination.

Alternatives – If you have more time, you can also visit attractions outside the city, such as Mount Qingcheng, the giant Buddha statue, and Mount Emei near Leshan.

WHERE TO EAT

* check AMap for Location

Restaurants:

★ **Chen Mapo Tofu**

Typical spicy Tofu & more

Xi Yu Long Street 197 (Qingyang District)

● **Laoyuanba Zajiangmian***

Delicious noodles from old lady

Jixiang Street – check AMap

● **Chunyang Guanyuxiang***

Very good Sichuan cuisine

Near Jixiang Street – check AMap



● **Laochengdu Sanyang Mian***

Another spot for spicy noodle meals

Guojielou Street – check AMap

● **Bon Appetit (@ The Atrium)***

Good bakery, pizzas & more



Cafés:

● **Gout & Co***

Nice and stylish café, good coffee

Shizi Alley – check AMap

● **Lishan Camellia Shi***

Various different shakes and teas

Chunxi Road – check AMap

★ **Arabica***

Delicious coffee & tea

Taikoo Li Branch

In Chengdu—and in China in general—you shouldn't rely on Google reviews. We've personally tested all of the recommendations here and can vouch for them; some of them can only be found on AMap, not Google Maps.

WHERE TO SLEEP

Chengdu also offers a variety of excellent hotels and accommodations. During our stay, we chose the

Buddha Zen Hotel

and were very satisfied.

The hotel was centrally located yet quiet, traditionally furnished, and the staff were very friendly and helpful.

Check out hotel here:



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