

## Welcome to China! Welcome to Hubei! Welcome to Wuhan!

PANORAMIC CHINA

# Land of the Phoenix

FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS

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## **I. Brief Introduction**

#### **Basic Facts**

- ✤ E (鄂)for short
- ♦ the Province of a Thousand Lakes---千湖之省
- provincial capital---Wuhan
- Hometown of the first ancestor of the Chinese nation, the emperor Yan( Shennong)
- Rich in agriculture, fishery ,forestry and hydropower resources.
- Main industries : iron and steel, machinery, power and automobile.
- Historic interest and scenic beauty
  - **ca** the Three Gorges of the Yangtze River
  - ca the East Lake and the Yellow Crane Tower in Wuhan
  - **c** the Temple of Emperor Yan in Suizhou
  - ca the Hometown of Quyuan in Zigui
  - **Wudang Mountain (famous for martial arts)**
  - ca Shennongjia (a place of primitive forest), etc.

## Geography

- \* 186,000 square kilometers.
- Population : 60,700,000
- HUBEI---the north of the Dongting Lake.
- High in the west and low in the east and wide open to the south, the Jianghan Plain.
- North--- Henan
- South---Jiangxi &Hunan
- East --- Anhui
- West ---Sichuan
- Northwest ---Shaanxi





#### Climate

\* Hubei has a sub-tropical monsoonal climate, with a mean annual temperature of 15°C-17°C -- the hottest month, July, averaging 27-30°C and the coldest month, January, 1-5°C -and a mean annual precipitation of 800-1600 mm.

#### **Administrative Division and Population**

- 1 autonomous prefecture: Enshi Tujiazu
- 12 prefecture-level cities: Wuhan, Huangshi, Shiyan, Jingzhou, Yichang, Xiangfan, Ezhou, Jingmen, Xiaogan, Huanggang, Xianning, Suizhou
- 24 county-level cities
- 39 counties
- \* 2 autonomous counties
- \* 1 forest district: Shennongjia
- \* ethnic groups :Han, Tu, Miao, Hui, Dong, Manchu, Zhuang, and Mongolian.

#### Hubei is ...

- \* The Cradle of the Chu Culture
- **\* The Place Contested by All Strategists**
- \* The Birthplace of Chinese Modern Industry
- \* The Sacred Place of Chinese Revolution

#### The Cradle of the Chu Culture

- The Chu Culture is one of the most important parts of the Chinese Culture. In the Spring and Autumn Period (770-475 BC) and the Warring States period (476-221 BC), Chu was the largest country in area within the territory of Hubei with its capital at Jiangling for 400 years. Chu once tried to conquer the Central Plains (comprising the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River), and became one of the five super powers in the Spring and Autumn Period as well as one of the 7 powerful states in the Warring States Period.
- Chu had once reached a very high level in the fields of bronze smelting, colorful weaving on silk, embroidery, lacquer ware manufacturing, etc. Great achievements had also been made in the artistic field, which was mainly demonstrated in music, dancing, paintings, sculptures, etc. The chime bells unearthed from the tomb of Yi, a high official of the ancient State Zeng at Suizhou are gems among the ancient musical instruments in the world. They are praised as "the eighth miracle in the ancient world". The Tonglushan Relic of the ancient mineral smelting at Daye is the largest and oldest mineralsmelting relic discovered in China. It has a history of 3,000 years and is called "the hometown of bronze."

#### **The Place Contested by All Strategists**

- In the Three Kingdoms Period, Hubei was the place contested by all strategists where many famous historical events took place. <u>The</u> <u>Romance of Three kingdoms</u>, one of the four classics in ancient China, consists of 120 chapters, among which 72 chapters are concerned with Hubei.
- Among the famous battle fields in ancient China, the Red Cliff is the only battle relic keeping the original state. The Red Cliff Battle (A.D.208) was the most famous few-win-many battle in the Chinese history. The ancient Longzhong at Xiangfan was the place where Zhuge Liang, the most well-known strategist and statesman in the Three Kingdoms Period, once lived in seclusion. Liu Bei, the emperor of Shu, had made at Zhuge Liang's thatched cottage to invite him to be official. This story has been told from mouth to mouth with general approval for thousands of years. Countless historical and cultural stories such as "Liu Bei borrowed the Jingzhou City", "Guan Yu was defeated at Maicheng", etc. took place in Hubei.

### The Birthplace of Chinese Modern Industry

As early as the end of nineteenth century, Zhang Zhidong, the Governor of Hubei and Hunan, set up the first Hanyang Steel Works that was the earliest industrial enterprise in China. In the meantime, the textile industries such as weaving, spinning, etc. were also established. After that, the enterprises such as hides-processing, papermaking, etc. were opened up as well. All of these had made Hubei the birthplace of Chinese modern industry.



#### The Sacred Place of Chinese Revolution

- On October 10,1911,the Xinhai Revolution (the Revolution of 1911),the Chinese bourgeois democratic revolution led by Dr.sun Yat-sen was started firstly at Wuchang. It overthrew the feudal monarchy lasting more than 2,000 years in China and established the Bourgeois Republic.
- During the new democratic revolution period, countless revolutionists of Hubei shed their blood for the founding of the People's Republic of China.
  - <u>Mong'an</u>, "a county of generals", is known as the hometown of more than 200 generals.

  - The city of <u>Honghu</u> was the revolution base area of Hunan and west Hubei. "<u>The song of Honghu lake</u>" encouraged countless people with lofty ideals.

#### **The Cultural Allusions of Hubei**

Hubei has a long historical cultural history. There are many famous allusions in ancient China, such as "drive a cart in ragged clothes to blaze a new trail"(筚路蓝缕,以启山林), "lofty mountains and flowing water"(高山流水), "Zhaojun leaving the frontier fortress"(昭君出塞), "Mulan joining the army"(木兰从军), "offer service as Mao Sui did"(毛 遂自荐), "The sincerity can make metal and stone crack"(精诚所至,金石为开), "The Spring Snow,---a highbrow song"(阳春白雪), "The Song of Rustic Poor"(下里巴人), and the love story of Dong Yong and the Seventh Fairy Maiden. All these allusions originated from Hubei.

## **II. HUBEI FOOD**





- Hubei food is famous for its freshwater fish dishes Since almost every fish available in Hubei can be prepared into different dishes, there are all-fish, bream, Mandarin fish, eel, turtle, crab, shrimp, clam, water chestnut, lotus root, wild duck, and preserved – duck – egg dinners.
- The main cooking methods are steaming and simmering.
- ◆ An important feature of Hubei food is its blending of fish with other ingredients, including Steamed Blunt-Snout Bream(清蒸武昌鱼), fish cake, fish ball etc.
- Other famous Hubei food include Three-steamed dishes, Fried Bean Sheet, Eight Treasure Rice Pudding, etc.

#### **Steamed Blunt-Snout Bream**



#### **Three-steamed dishes**



#### **Fried Bean Sheet**



## Fish Cake



### **Fish Ball**

聽聽的節節層層



## **Eight Treasure Rice Pudding**



## Huangpi Three-in-one



## Hongshan Vegetable Bolts



## Honghu Braised Wild Duck

## **Xiao Tao Yuan Chicken Soups**



## Liangzi Lake Crabs



### **Pearl Meatballs**



## **III. Hubei Celebrities**

#### "Talents Born in Chu Only"

## Qu Yuan



- Qu Yuan (340-278 BC) was the first great patriotic poet in the history of Chinese literature.
- He was born in an aristocratic family of the Chu State, one of seven powerful states at that time. His birthplace is today's Zigui County in Hubei Province.

He composed 25 poems including Sorrow after Departure, The Nine Songs (11 pieces), Asking Heaven, The Nine Elegies (9 pieces), The Far-off Journey Divination, and The Fisherman.

- Fully trusted by the king of the Chu State, Qu Yuan served as the chief assistant to the king. Representing progressive forces he had advocated and upheld the idea of political reforms. He carried out political reforms, set up strict legal system, and gave full opportunity to the able, all of which met with strong opposition of the decadent aristocrats.
- Menaced by the threat of the Qin State, Qu Yuan advocated the alliance with other states, fighting against Qin with a combined force. The ruler of the Qin, who viewed the Chu State as the number one adversary, schemed to undermine the good administration of Chu under Qu Yuan. He sent his men to bribe the brother and favorite woman of the king of Chu, who were jealous of the authority of Qu Yuan. The two spoke ill of Qu Yuan to the king and the king took it for truth at last. Qu Yuan was exiled eventually.
- In the course of his banishment, unhappy and dejected, Qu Yuan wandered the countryside and produced a great many poems, expressing his love for the country and its people, his concerns about the country and his detestation toward the treacherous persons.
- On the breakthrough of the Qin army into the capital of his country, Qu Yuan threw himself into Miluo River in present Hunan Province and died with his country.

## **Zhuge Liang**



Zhuge Liang is a famous politician and strategist in the Three-kingdom Period, and lived as a hermit in Longzhong of Xiangyang for ten years. Liu Bei visited him for three times and asked him for assistance. His famous statement of Liu Bei Longzhongdui contributes to the formation of the triangular balance of the power of the three kingdoms.



## Wang Zhaojun

Wang Zhaojun—one of the "Four Beauties" in Chinese ancient history—was born in Nanjun of Zigui in Western Han (xiangshan County today). She married to Xiongnu ethnic minority nationality and has enhanced unity between the Han and Xiongnu people which won her great respects.

## **IV.HUBEI ATTRACTIONS**

* <u>V</u>	Vuhan:	East Lake, the Yellow Crane Tower, GuiYuan Temple,
		the Red Building, Guqintai, Mulan Lake
		(Mountain), Hubei Provincial Museum.

- \* <u>Yichang</u>: <u>Three Gorges</u>, <u>Changyang Qingjiang</u>, Hometown of Wang Zhaojun.
- \* Jingzhou: Jingzhou Ancient City, Honghu Lake
- \* Shiyan: <u>Wudang Mountain</u>
- \* **Shennongjia**: Natural Beauty of the Virgin forest of Shennongjia.
- \* Jingmen: Dahongshan Scenic Spot, Xian Tomb of Ming Dynasty.
- \* Xiangfan: <u>Ancient Longzhong</u>
- Ezhou: Liangzi Lake ecological tourist area.

 Xianning: Thermal Spring, Chibi- Ancient Battlefield of the Three Kingdoms
# YICHANG



- The Yangtze River endows Yichang with both its history and future. The city serves as the gateway to the upper river.
- As early as the Spring and Autumn Period (722-481BC), the city was controlled by the Chu State, which recognised the strategic advantages of the site. In 1877, the city became a British treaty port. Trade developed rapidly. These days, dams are the future, with the Gezhou Dam close by and the controversial Three Gorges Dam under construction 40 kilometres upstream.









# THREE GORGES DAM

The Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River has been a dream for generations and will be one of the largest construction projects ever undertaken by mankind. This great dam, the largest of its kind in the world, will provide China with tremendous power generation and flood control services. It was in 1992 that the Chinese Government finally gave the go ahead for the scheme, some seventy years after Dr. Sun Yet-Sen, pioneer of the Chinese democratic revolution, first proposed the idea.

The dam site is 27 miles upstream from Yichang City, at Sandouping Town, 38km upstream from the Gezhouba Dam Lock, inside the third of the Three Gorges. It is planned to be by far the largest hydroelectric project in the world. The Project calls for the construction of a concrete dam, a hydroelectric power plant and a series of locks just below the scenic Three Gorges region. The project is designed to be built in three phases and is scheduled for completion in year 2009.

# **Tujia Folk in Qingjiang**

- Qingjiang is called the "mother river of the Tujia ethnic group," the origin of the ancient Ba people.
- <u>
   \* "Eight hundred miles of Qingjiang is eight hundred miles of art gallery."
   </u>





# Xiling Gorge

Comprising many dangerous rapids and currents, Xiling Gorge starts at Badong County and zigzags for 76 kilometers (47 miles) down to the Nanjin Pass in Yichang. It is the longest part of the Three Gorges system with dangerous rapids like Xietan, Qintan and Kongling, collectively known as the Three Rapids of Xiling.



# Shennongjia Scenic Area

- The wildest scenery in the province completes with the legend of the Bigfoot.
- the name for the area roughly translates as 'Shennong's Ladder' to commemorate a legendary emperor, Shennong, believed to be the founder of herbal medicine and agriculture.



# Wudang Mountain

- Wudang Mountain, located in Shiyan in western Hubei, is both a famous scenic spot and the Taoist Holy Land in China. The ancient architectural complex on the mountain was listed by UNESCO in 1994 as a World Culture Heritage Site. Major scenic spots include 72 peaks, 36 rocky cliffs, and 24 streams. Tianzhu Peak, its highest point, creates a striking view of "One Pole Supporting the Sky." Clustered around it are numerous smaller ones, composing a fantastic picture of 72 peaks paying homage to the main one.
- Wudang Mountain is renowned as Immortals's Mountain of Taoism and the World for Swordsman. It is a famous Taoist centre in China with a long history of Taoist practice and a profound Taoist culture. Wudang Mountain is also well-known for its deep-rooted tradition of wushu (<u>Martial Art</u>). As an old saying goes: "Shaolin wushu is the best in the north, while Wudang wushu is the best in the south."
- Wudang's ancient architectural complex consists of eight palaces, two Taoist temples, 72 rock temples, 12 pavilions and 10 shrines. Large in scale and excellent in technical detail, it is a powerful demonstration of the harmony between architecture and nature. Inspired by the fairyland picture of the perfect blending of buildings and mountains, Wudang architectural complex is known as the Imperial Palace on the Cliff.

# **Wudang Mountain**



### ZiXiao Palace

- Zixiao Palace, located on Tianzhu Peak of Wudangshan Mountain.
- It was built in the year of 1413. It is the bestpreserved existing palace on the mountain.
- The main attractions in the palace are the Dragon and Tiger Hall, the Purple Sky Hall, the East Hall, the West Hall and the Prince Cliff.



# The Ancient City of Jingzhou

- Jingzhou lays in the south of the centre of Hubei Province and the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, and is an ancient cultural city with a long history of more than two thousand years.
- It was originally one of the birth places of the culture of Chu State in the Spring and Autumn Period (770 BC-476 BC) and Warring State Period (476 BC-220 BC), which left extremely valuable cultural relics from their 400 plus years' reign equally comparable with the ancient Greek and Roman culture.
- In the Three Kingdom Period (220-589), the city was the focus of many disputes and wars.
- Since the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420), the city had been established as the capital by 11 emperors in all, making it the political centre in China for more than 100 years..





- Jingzhou is divided into three parts from outside to inside Water City, Brick City and Earth City originally mainly designed for the military function.
- The moat outside is the first line of protection for the city. There are two city gates as you enter the city, and the space between is called 'Urn City', which was used to catch the enemy inside.
- The brick City that can be seen by us now was rebuilt during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). It is one of the most complete and solid constructions that remain.
- There were 6 ancient city gates in the wall, originally each had a tower. Now the most popular are the Binyang Lou on the Eastern Gate, the Qujiang Lou on the Southern Gate, and Chaozong Lou on the Large Northern Gate. Eastern Gate was for welcoming the guests and ambassadors in ancient times, so the tower is very grandiose and the Urn City is also the biggest. On the Qujiang Lou, all the splendor of the Yangtze River comes into view. The Large North Gate was the fortress leading to Beijing and the central area, and people used to see their friends off from here and broke a willow branch to send their greetings, hence the gate was also called 'Willow Gate'. Climbing onto the towers, you gain a magnificent panoramic view of this beautiful city.

### Ancient Longzhong in Xiangfan

- On the eastern slope of Longzhong Mountain fifteen kilometers west of Xiangyang, Longzhong was the hometown of Zhuge Liang (A.D. 181-234), one of the most well-known politicians and strategists in Chinese history who helped Liu Bei establish and consolidate his rule during the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280). Zhuge Liang was granted the honored title of Duke Wuxiang after his death.
- Longzhong is surrounded by hills covered with pine and cypress trees and embellished with winding streams. Scenic spots here include Little Rainbow Bridge (Xiaobongqiao), Half Moon Creek (Banyuexi), Old Dragon Cave (Laolongdong), and Holding the Knee Stone (Baiqishi).





# Yuanyang Creek White Water Rafting



# **Beauty Valley**



# V.HUBEI CUSTOMS

\* Han :

Spring Festival;
Lanterns Festival;
Qingming Festival;
Dragon Boat Day;
Chinese Lover's Day;
Mid-Autumn Day.

Tujia :
 <u>Athe hand-waving dance</u>
 <u>Aunique wedding and funeral customs</u>

#### \* Miao :



# **Spring Festival**



饭

#### Before the New Year

Preparing food. (knives &scissors could be put away to avoid cutting the luck of the New Year.)

ce Getting one's hair done.

#### New Year's Eve & New Year's day

ca strictly family affairs

- family dinner—family reunion
- Watching CCTV Spring Festival Gala

firework

- Yuanxiao /Dumplings
- Lai-See/ Red Pack/Red Envelope --- Good luck
- Spring Couplets
- Visiting relatives
- New clothes

#### Lantern Festival



- legends of the Han Dynasty over 2000 years ago
- Lanterns
- Yuan Xiao
- Lion & Dragon DanceRiddles





#### **Dragon Boat Festival**

- Double Fifth Day
- Qu Yuan, a minister during the Warring States Period (475 - 221 BC)
- Dragon Boat Race
- Zongzi
- Salted Duck Eggs
- Mung Bean Cakes





#### **Double Seventh Day**

 Legend of Star Vega (weaving maid) and Star Altair (Cowherd)



#### **Mid-Autumn Festival**

# Legend about Mid-Autumn Festival Moon Cake





# More Videos about Hubei

- Wudang kungfu 1
- ✤ <u>Wudang kungfu2</u>
- ✤ Wudang kungfu3
- Mountain Wudang 2
- \* <u>Chibi 1</u>
- \* <u>Chibi 2</u>
- \* <u>Chibi 3</u>
- ✤ Chibi war 1
- Chibi war cartoon