

# Visitor Information

Second Ring Road in Wuhan





## A bird's eye view...

**T**here are 13 zones under the jurisdiction of Wuhan, of which six are suburban areas. For simplicity, our orientation will focus on the 7 central districts, namely Jiang'an, Jianghan, Qiaokou, Hanyang, Wuchang, Qingshan, and Hongshan. Together they represent just 10% of Wuhan's total area, but house the majority of the city's population and commercial activities.

The centre of Wuhan is at the confluence of the Yangtze River and the Han River, rimmed by a 31-kilometre ring road comprising Jiefang Avenue in Hankou (see map),



Wuchang's Zhongnan Road and two Wuhan Yangtze River Bridges that run in parallel.

Running through the busiest part of Hankou, Jiefang Avenue separates **Jianghan**, a commercial business centre with the most luxurious shopping mall (see page 78), from **Jiang'an**, which used to be the concession area. A lot of the European-style buildings in the district were offices of Western banks, foreign consulates and churches, many of which are now converted for different uses.

In 1984 Yanjiang Avenue, which is aligned with Jiefang Avenue (and facing the Hankou Bund), became the seat of the local government, while **Wuchang's** Zhongnan Road was redesignated as a business district that enjoys close proximity with Wuhan's most important tourist spots including the Yellow Crane Tower, Hubu Alley and monuments to the 1911 Revolution (see pages 42, 47 and 50). The Yellow Crane Tower sits at the mouth of the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge, which also serves as a pedestrian overpass for travellers going between Hanyang and Wuchang. At the other end of the bridge in **Hanyang** is the **Qingchuan Pavilion** (see page 49).

North of Zhongnan Road is Hongshan Square, which connects the Zhongbei Road and which leads to the 48km





Yingwuzhou bridge



Some of the European-style architecture in Jiang'an district

second ring road that includes the Erqi Yangtze River Bridge in its northern section and the Yingwuzhou Yangtze River Bridge in the south. The square is a recreational space and is named after the district where the provincial government of Hubei is based.

Before 1986, **Hongshan** was predominantly farmland, thanks to the abundant water resources it draws from dozens of lakes, including the country's second largest inland body, the East Lake. But economic development and the demand to attract talent have turned the swamp into a district housing many reputed higher education institutions, including Wuhan University and Huazhong University of Science & Technology (see pages 101 and 102).

A large number of scholars and their brainpower have driven the growth of the East Lake Hi-tech Development Zone, also known as the Optics Valley. The moniker alludes to its accomplishment in producing 60% of China's optical fibre and its role as the key laboratory for other optical communication technology. As the zone continues to

diversify and improve its infrastructure, tech companies have increasingly based their research centres in Wuhan, including Huawei and Xiaomi.

Bordering Hongshan district to the north is **Qingshan**, an industrial area that sits between the second and third ring roads. Qingshan owes its development to the location there of the state-owned Wuhan Iron and Steel Corporation. In 2016 it merged with a Shanghai-based peer to form the Baowu Steel Group, which is now the world's second biggest steelmaker after Luxembourg-based ArcelorMittal.

Also sandwiched between the two ring roads on the other side of town is **Qiaokou**. Lying on the banks of the Han River, it is the oldest part of Hankou, with its Hanzheng Street being one of the oldest markets. But its shops today are far from trendy. The city's centre has shifted to Jiang'an and Jianghan, although the ongoing restoration is expected to give the area a facelift soon.

Wuhan is urbanising and absorbing an increasing population, so not surprisingly rapid development is underway beyond the central areas. That has encouraged large-scale residential development in suburban districts including Dongxihu to the west, Jiangxia to the south, Caidian in the southwest, Huangpi in the north, and Xinzhou in the northeast. A fourth ring road to improve access to such areas is slated for completion in 2019. ■



## Water woes

Wuhan is inextricably linked with great floods. Legend has it that the tripartite city came into being after a feat by Yu the Great to tame the deluge. But for over four thousand years water and attendant catastrophes have continued to plague the metropolis. The frequent inundations are partly explained by Wuhan's geography. After all, it straddles the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, and sits on a low-lying terrain with plentiful lakes and rivers. The Yangtze is Asia's longest river at 6,380km, and also the world's third longest waterway. As it courses southward from the elevated Tibetan Plateau, and turns eastward from Sichuan, its altitude also decreases drastically. That leads to problems that generally surface in summer, when torrential rain exacerbates the impact of snowmelt, and increases water levels to the point that the river can no longer be contained within its banks.

To ease water troubles, Wuhan built its first dyke in 1635. It stretched from Qiaokou district in the west to today's Dongdi Street in Jianghan district. Named after its architect (Yuan Chang) the embankment gave rise to a bustling market in the vicinity, around which Hanzheng Street stands today. Another significant dyke was built in 1905 by Zhang Zhidong which helped separate Hankou from the Dongxi Lake that draws water from the Han River. Subsequent enhancements made the dyke taller, which has since 2010 formed part of the arterial road known as the Third Ring. In fact, the cityscape of Wuhan has been shaped to a great extent by the flood

**Wuhan's water area totals 2217.6 square kilometres, comprising 165 waterways of at least 5km length and 166 lakes. They account for 26% of the city's landmass**



relief infrastructure erected over the years.

In 2016, Wuhan again experienced serious floods that made headlines around the world. In one week the megacity received a record 570mm of rainfall, while the Yangtze River broke its banks, swamping even the underground lines. Although the losses and casualties it caused were fewer than those left by a similar disaster in 1998, many were appalled to learn that the chaos had some man-made causes too. To make room for urban development, about a third of the lakes in Wuhan had been reclaimed since 1949, which considerably reduced the city's capacity for water retention. Worse still, projects to improve the drainage system were reportedly set back by corruption. A three-year municipal initiative saw 70% of its Rmb13 billion budget go missing.

The city is now looking to resolve its flood issues through a landscape engineering programme called "sponge city" (the local government name for water projects). Under the initiative, Rmb2 billion (\$290 million) has been invested to turn the embankment area in Qingshan district into a green park. Other projects in the pipeline include upgrading Hanyang's sewerage system and developing permeable paving. It is estimated that Rmb20 billion has been earmarked for the so-called "sponge city" projects.



# Transport

## International arrivals – Tianhe International Airport

Opened in 1995, Wuhan's Tianhe International Airport located in the Huangpi district is the biggest airline hub in central China, handling 23 million passengers in 2017. It supports direct flights to over 100 domestic destinations and 59 overseas including Dubai, London, Los Angeles, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Melbourne, Moscow, Paris, Rome, San Francisco and Sydney. By 2020, the number of international routes will be increased to 70. You could be eligible to stay in Wuhan without a visa for 72 hours if you are transiting through it to a third country and hold the passport of a country that's included in the policy (there are 53 as of August 2018).

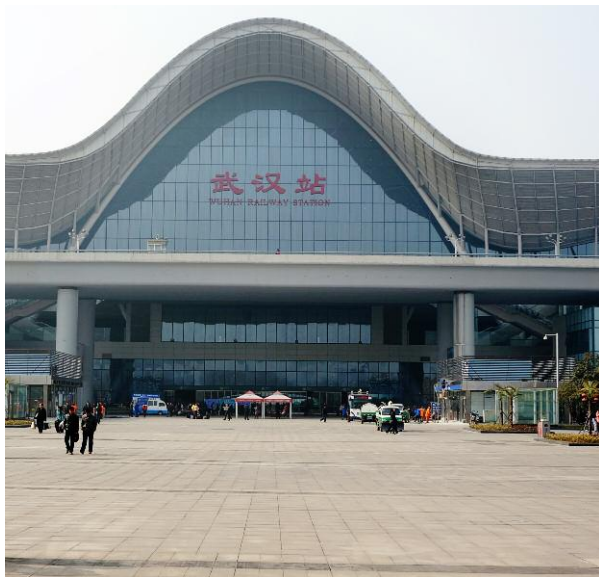
Tianhe Airport has three terminals but only Terminal 3 (T3) is in service since the other two are under renovation. Opened in August 2017, T3 is within an hour of Wuhan's downtown, and can be reached by the city's underground metro. It is linked to the terminus station of Metro Line 2, or 10 stops away from the Hankou Railway Station. There are also shuttle buses that travel between the airport and the three towns of Wuhan for Rmb17-32. (See <http://jyw.wuhan.gov.cn/chfw/103573.html> for updated schedules)



Wuhan's international airport first opened in 1985 but its new Terminal 3 opened in 2017



While a taxi is perhaps the most comfortable option for connecting to the airport, it is also costlier. Expect to pay at least Rmb100 (\$14.57) for the journey, and even more during peak hours because of traffic congestion.



**Wuhan Railway Station: high-speed rail links to 25 Chinese provinces**

### **High-speed trains**

Located in the very centre of China, Wuhan is within reach of most major cities in less than five hours via bullet trains. It is a major stop for the east-west corridor connecting Shanghai and Chengdu, as well as for the north-south corridor ending in Hong Kong's West Kowloon. Upon the completion of the Hubei section by 2022, the travelling time between Wuhan and Shanghai will drop to around four hours.

Currently there are three train stations in Wuhan, namely the Wuchang Railway Station, the Wuhan Railway Station, and the Hankou Railway Station. But only the latter two run high-speed trains.

A Chinese ID card is required for booking high-speed train tickets through the official ticketing system. As a result, most non-residents buy through third-party travel agents and their websites, which might charge you a slight premium. The tickets can be redeemed at the service counters at high-speed train stations (arrive early, as queues are large). The self-service machines at stations are as yet unable to process foreign travel documents.

To travel to nearby cities within the Wuhan Metropolitan Area, take the intercity railway. Since opening in 2013 with a service to the southern city of Xianning (bordering Jiangxi and Hunan provinces), three more lines were added. While the Huangshi line goes southeast and reaches Ezhou,





**Underground: it opened in 2000**

Huangshi, and Daye; the Huanggang line travels across the Yangtze River to the east. The northern line is linked to Wuhan's Metro Line 2, which connects Tianhe International Airport and Xiaogan (with only five stops in between). A new leg joining Xiantao – west of Wuhan – is under construction, and due to start service in 2019.

### **Rapid transit system**

Wuhan's subway has cut the time for travelling between the 'three towns' (they are separated by water). Since its opening in 2000, seven lines have progressively gone into operation. Their trains generally run at intervals of no more than 5 minutes between 6am and 10:30pm daily. While the process of going through pre-boarding security checks can seem cumbersome, all stations are generally user-friendly,

with their announcements and notices made in both Mandarin Chinese and English. Each ride costs between Rmb2-6, depending on the distance you travel.

The underground network has so far been concentrated in Hankou, partly because it is designed to spread out from the city's business and commercial centre. Yet the many lakes in Wuchang have also presented technical challenges for metro construction. By 2021 the Wuhan Metro Group says it will add eight more extensions or new lines to better integrate Wuchang into the system and make Hanyang more accessible. In the works there are also 11 additional links for suburban areas, as well as for improving existing urban services.

Wuhan's rapid transport system also includes trams, which mainly operate in the East Lake New Technology Development Zone, also known as the Optics Valley.

### **Taxi**

Taxis – mostly painted yellow-and-white or green-and-white – remain the most convenient means to get around, as Wuhan's rail system is yet to reach throughout the city. Normally the first 3 kilometres costs Rmb10, and Rmb1.8 for every subsequent kilometre. If the cab is a Citroën C-Triomphe sedan, usually painted blue, the fare will rise to Rmb10 for the first 2 kilometres, and Rmb2 for every kilometre afterwards. As is the case in other mainland

**China's bullet trains operate on a three-tier class structure, with Business Class being the most expensive, followed by First Class, then Second Class. For a 4.5-hour trip between Wuhan and Hong Kong, a second-class seat costs around Rmb610 (\$89). That is compared to around \$272 for a 2-hour flight on local airlines and around \$496 on Cathay Pacific in economy class**



**Taxis: cost Rmb10 for the first 3km**

cities, there will be a 50% surcharge for every kilometre after a journey of 10 kilometres, and Rmb1 for every 2.5 minutes of waiting time. To raise the general public's disposable income, tolls levied at nine bridges, a tunnel and a highway have been abolished since January 1, 2018. Traffic gridlock tends to occur between 6:30am-9am and 5pm-7:30pm on weekdays.

### **Buses and BRT**

There are 467 bus routes across Wuhan, with those services starting with number 4 being tourism buses that take you to major attractions. Each ride costs Rmb2, or Rmb1 for non-air-conditioned cars. There is, however, no English information on bus timetables. The government is also promoting Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), an aboveground system that operates on dedicated platforms. Wuhan's first

BRT lane runs from the Wuchang Railway Station to the Optics Valley Railway Station. Seven other lanes will be established by 2020.

### **Ferry**

It should come as little surprise that water transport has long been a popular means to travel between Hankou, Hanyang, and Wuchang. Today there are eight routes joining 13 piers on both side of the Yangtze River; of which four are for regular commutes, and the rest are for sightseeing. The most popular route travels between Wuhanguan (Hankou) and Zhonghua Road (Wuchang). The first ferry departs at 6:30am and the last at 8pm. Each ride costs Rmb1.5 per person or more if bringing a bike or motorcycle on board. Another popular route travels between Jijiazui (Hankou) and Hanyangmen (Wuchang) from 7am to 6.40pm. Each ride costs Rmb2 per person. Ferries on both routes depart every 20 minutes.

### **Transportation cards: Wuhan Tong**

Wuhan's transport system can be accessed by a reloadable contactless smart card similar to London's Oyster Card or Hong Kong's Octopus card. Known as "Wuhan Tong," it can be acquired from the city's underground stations for a deposit of Rmb20 (which is not in fact fully refundable). A monthly fee of Rmb0.4, or Rmb2 for less than a year, will be



### Wuhan Tong

deducted from the deposit should the card be returned to the operator.

You can load the card – with up to Rmb1000 – at underground stations, Wuhan Tong service centres, partner retailers, or even via Alipay on mobile phones that support Near Field Communications (NFC). It can be used with Wuhan’s metro, buses, ferries, and increasingly for purchases at supermarkets, convenience stores, pharmacies and cinemas. Using the card for public transport will allow you to enjoy a 20% discount off the original fare and other interchange concessions within 90 minutes from the first journey being made.

Outside of Wuhan, the card is also usable in satellite cities including Anlu, Daye, Ezhou, Hanchuan, Xiantao, Xiaogan, and Yingcheng.

### Internet access:

Just like in any city in mainland China, web navigation in

Wuhan is subject to the country’s Great Firewall, meaning Google, Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp are not available. If you rely on these platforms for communication, it is essential to arrange a virtual private network (VPN) or activate roaming services before arrival.

AutoNavi and Baidu Maps are the most common local alternatives for getting your bearings or planning trips – if you are able to understand Chinese characters. Taken over by Alibaba in 2014, Nasdaq-listed AutoNavi (also known as Amap or Gaode) is the top choice among locals with 133 million monthly active users in the first quarter of 2018, versus Baidu Map’s 85 million.

Based on the entered destination, AutoNavi provides route recommendations with the travelling distance and time specified. The options can be further sorted by “less walking distance”, “fewer transport interchanges,” and so forth. It also informs users about nearby restaurants, cafes, hotels, gyms, malls and other entertainment venues based on their location.

AutoNavi doesn’t offer ride-hailing itself, but it allows users to compare and choose such services (Didi, Caocao, Shouqi) within its platform. It is especially useful for taking buses or underground trains as it can accurately track one’s location and stops along the journey.

For iPhone users, Apple Maps, which sources its data from AutoNavi, is also a handy option.

**AutoNavi and Baidu Maps are the most common means used by locals for getting around**



## Wuhan Underground System

Wuhan's underground system is the sixth busiest in China, handling 2.5 million people daily as of the end of 2017. The government has decided to develop it in four phases and so far only the first two of these are completed. Taking a very long term view there are plans for 25 lines covering 1,100 kilometres by 2049.

### Line 1 (Jinghe – Hankou North):

- **Dazhi Road** – the interchange station linking Line 6, close to Jingnan Avenue, Jiefang Avenue, and Jiqing street, a food-stall corner
- **Huangpu Road** – the interchange station linking Line 8, giving immediate access to Wuhan Tiandi, the newly developed commercial-cum-residential complex
- **Xunlimen** – stands at Jiangnan Road, close to RT Mart (a supermarket), New World Department Store, and M+ shopping mall

### Line 2 (Tianhe International Airport – Optics Valley Square):

- **Tianhe International Airport** – direct access to Terminal 3 of Wuhan's new airport
- **Hankou Railway Station** – a major high-speed train station
- **Zhongshan Park** – immediate access to the most popular recreation venue at the heart of the city (see page 55), close to a cluster of shopping malls including the landmark Wuhan Plaza
- **Wangjiadun East** – the interchange station linking Line 7 (under construction); close to Hankou's CBD and the restaurant

cluster along Xuesong Road

- **Jiedaokou** – the interchange station linking Line 8 (under construction); close to the main entrance of the prestigious Wuhan University
- **Pangxiejia** – the interchange station linking Line 7 (under construction); close to Fanyuehui, where national food chains concentrate, and Tanhualin, an ancient district repurposed into a quaint cultural and café zone
- **Optics Valley Square** – close to the 1.3-kilometre Optics Valley shopping street that features various replicas of European attractions such as France's Arc de Triomphe as well as the top-tier Huazhong University of Science and Technology

### Line 3 (Hongtu Avenue – Zhuanyang Avenue):

- **Luojiashuang** – close to the Gude Temple (see page 48)
- **Hong Kong Road** – the interchange station linking Line 6; immediate access to the commercial district as well as the Wuhan Library

### Line 4 (Wuhan Railway Station – Huangjinkou):

- **Wuhan Railway Station** – a major high-speed train station yet far from the city centre
- **Chuhehan Street** – close to the landmark shopping and entertainment complex (see page 54)
- **Zhongnan Road** – Wuchang's CBD
- **Wuchang Railway Station** – built in 1916 and revamped in



Wuhan's underground system is the sixth busiest in China

2008, it provides standard express links with other major cities in Hubei Province

- **Shouyi Road** – close to the food market at Hubu Alley (see page 42)
- **Fuxing Road** – close to the 1911 Revolution Museum and the Yellow Crane Tower (see pages 47 and 50)

#### **Line 6 (Jinyinhu Park – Dongfeng Motor Company):**

- **Liuduqiao** – along Zhongshan Avenue, which cuts through Sanmin Road and is close to the former headquarters of the Wuhan National Government, now a museum (see page 51)
- **Jiangan Road** – the interchange station linking Line 2; direct access to the pedestrian street ending at the Hankou Customs House Museum and the Hankou Bund (see pages 50 and 51)
- **Heptachord Terrace (Qintai)** – close to the historical site Guqin Tai (see page 48 and the HanyangZao Art Zone (also known as the 824 Art Factory)

#### **Line 8 (Liyuan - Jintan Road):**

- **Liyuan** – close to the East Lake Eco-tourism Zone (see page 54)

#### **Line 21 or Yangluo Line (Houhui Avenue - Jintai):**

it covers Xinzhou, a suburban area in the northeast along the northern bank of the Yangtze River



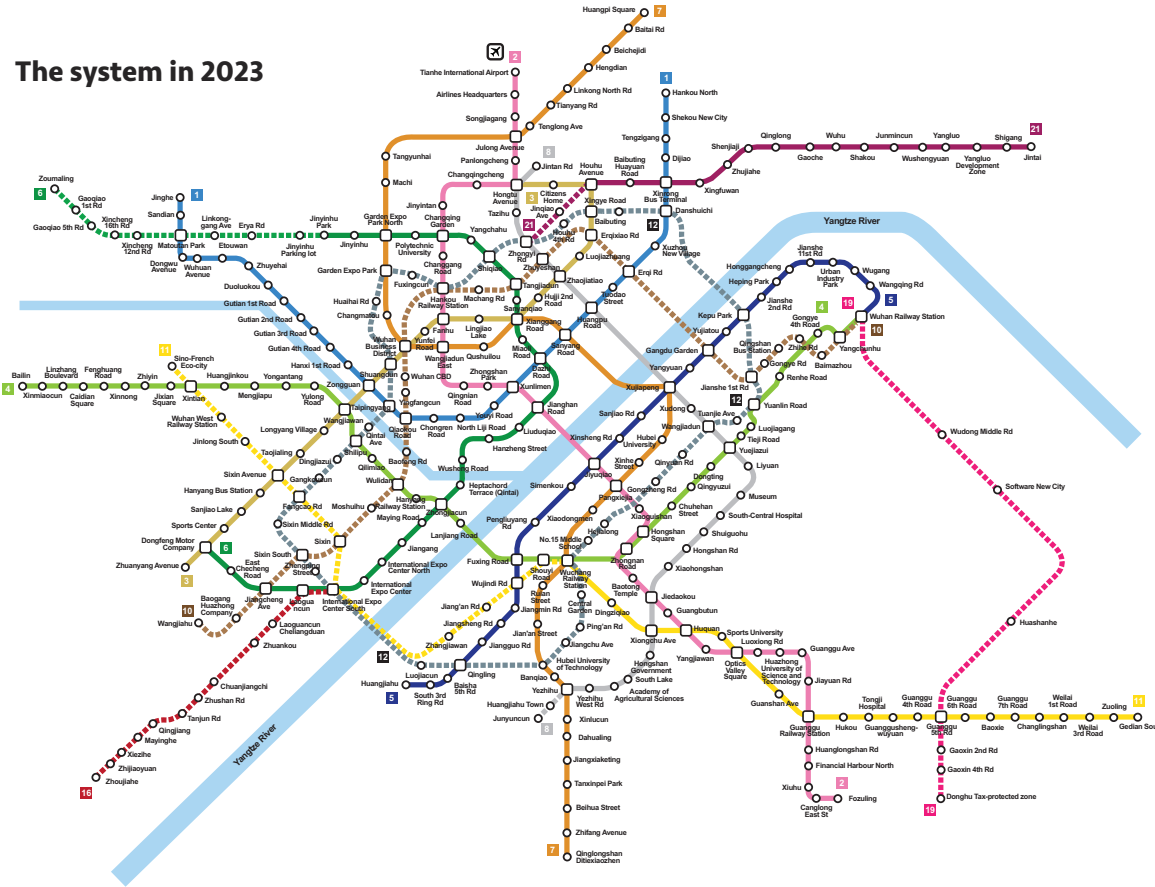
# Rapid Transit System



- Line 1
- Line 2
- Line 3
- Line 4
- Line 6
- Line 8
- Line 21 (Yangtze Line)
- Ordinary Station
- Transfer Station
- Terminal Station
- Ⓜ Railway Station
- ✈ Airport



# The system in 2023



- Line 1
- Line 2
- Line 3
- Line 4
- Line 5
- Line 6
- Line 7
- Line 8
- Line 10
- Line 11
- Line 12
- Line 16
- Line 19
- Line 21

- Ordinary Station
- Transfer Station
- Terminal Station
- ✈ Airport



# Food: Wuhan's best known dishes

## **Reganmian** (热干面)

Sold in street carts and fast food outlets, *reganmian* (hot dry noodles) are the signature food of Wuhan, eaten at any time of the day – as a meal or snack. The dish mixes alkaline noodles with soy sauce, sesame paste, chilli oil, and a wide array of toppings including pickles, chopped green onion and garlic chives. Other variations will see the base noodle served with spicy shrimp or beef. Customers can usually watch the preparation process, as the food item is cooked-to-order. It begins with some *al dente* noodles spread for cooling, then cooked in boiling water with sesame oil until completion. The final step is mixing – sometimes according to the customers' preference. Along with Sichuan's *dandanmian*, Shanxi's *daoxiaomian* (also known as knife-cut noodles), Liangguang's *yifumian* and northern China's *zhajiangmian*, hot dry noodles is one of China's top-five noodle dishes.

## **Sanxian doupi** (三鲜豆皮)

A popular breakfast item, *sanxian doupi* got its name from having its *doupi* wrapping caked together by fried glutinous rice along with three fresh ingredients (i.e. *sanxian*). The three fresh ingredients are eggs, shrimps, and meat, seasoned with scallions, soy sauce, yellow wine,



Popular among Wuhaners at any time of day: *reganmian*

pepper and a little vinegar. Some versions include mushroom or bamboo sprouts. A good *doupi* (made of rice flour, egg, and mung bean powder), fried to golden-brown, should be crispy but not oily, and strong enough to hold the cake in a square shape. Some have said the dish was popularised by an 87 year-old restaurant called Lao Tong Cheng, which served the dish to Chairman Mao, North Korea's Kim Il-sung, and other leaders. Its flagship store is now located along Jiqing street in the Hankou area.





### Mian wo (面窝)

It's a thin, deep-fried doughnut made of soymilk, brown rice, milk, flour and sprinkled with sesame and chopped scallions. Golden-brown on the exterior but white inside, *mian wo* usually has a slightly salty taste (sometimes spiced up by ginger). A sweet variant may be made with diced sweet potato. Locals say there are four ways to savour the popular food item: (1) as a standalone snack served hot; (2) wrapped inside *baba* (粩粩) – a type of thick, round, heavy bread; (3) dipped into spicy noodle soup; (4) alongside local rice wine that is mildly sweet.

### Spicy duck neck (鸭脖)

Simmered for hours in a piquant broth of red pepper, chilli powder, Pixian bean paste, star anise and dozens of other spices and condiments, the supposedly tasteless part of a duck – the neck – comes off with a subtle, variegated flavour that is comparable to Sichuan *mala*, but not as tongue-tingling. Chopped into one or two inches long, the reddish-brown finger food is often served as a beer snack. The proper way to savour it is to first nibble on the outside, pop the different spine bones apart and suck out the remaining meat. The preparation method is also applied to other duck parts including the tongue, head, feet, liver, and kidney, which are collectively called “Wuhan Duck”.



Zhongshan Avenue street food



Following the release of movie and TV drama *Life Show* in 2002 – adapted from a novel written by Wuhan-born author Chi Li – “Wuhan Duck” gained nationwide popularity with shops selling the local titbit sprouting up



**Wuchang Fish: made from a kind of bream**

in Nanjing, Shanghai, and many other major cities.

### **Wuchang fish (武昌鱼)**

A kind of bream with a blunt snout, Wuchang Fish was first found in the Liangzi Lake of Echeng County in Hubei Province. It has been an iconic food item since the Three Kingdom Period and became popular after Chairman Mao Zedong mentioned it in a poem. Similar to other freshwater fish, it has a lot of bones, but its meat is particularly tender. There are as many as 30 ways to prepare the fish such as steaming or red-braising, all created by Great China Restaurant (大中华酒楼), which served Mao in 1956. The fish specialist has opened a few branches across Wuhan, with its flagship located at 907 Xiongchu Avenue in the Hongshan district.

### **Hong cai tai (紅菜苔)**

Historically offered to the emperor as a tribute, *hong cai tai* is a succulent, crunchy vegetable with a refreshing flavour. Its name is a pun, which highlights the magenta colour of its petiole (“*hong*” is how “red” is pronounced in Mandarin) as well as its origin in the Hongshan district of Wuchang. It can be prepared in multiple ways, most commonly fried with vinegar or *mala* spices. One local speciality featuring the plant is called “Fried *Hong cai tai*



Frogs legs stir fried in chilli and ginger are also popular among locals...

with Cured Meat” (红菜苔炒腊肉), which uses bacon grease to bring out the sweetness of the plant. *Hong cai tai* is said to be highly nutritious, rich in calcium, phosphorus, iron, carotene, and vitamin C. Locals reckon it's best to have the vegetable in winter.

### **Crayfish** (小龙虾)

Why is crayfish such a Wuhan specialty when the freshwater delicacy is available across China? Because nearly 60% of the crustacean harvested in the country comes from Hubei province. It goes without saying that Wuhan is its main export hub, where the crayfish first arrives and is therefore fresher than in many other Chinese cities. Known as “little lobster” locally, it is usually cooked via a quick dip in boiling hot oil, then tossed in different flavour sauces. Apart from being a dinner item, it is particularly popular during summer as a beer snack. The species was originally imported in the 1920s by Japanese traders to the eastern Chinese city of Nanjing to keep pests in check. It has taken the country by storm in recent years, prompting specialty restaurants such as Liangliang Zhengxia (靓靓蒸虾) and Bali Longxia (巴厘龙虾) to open branches everywhere. But locals still believe the best crayfish is served at those restaurants' flagships on Xuesong Road in the Jiangnan district.



## A centre for crayfish

There are many theories about how crayfish, a freshwater crustacean, was introduced to China. The most popular belief is that some Japanese, who traditionally used the parasite-carrying species for feeding bullfrogs, released them into the waters of Jiangsu province when the second Sino-Japanese war (1937-1945) drew to an end. Yet the burrowing creatures did not proliferate until they reached Wuhan's Jiangnan Plain, where its vast network of rivers and lakes created an ideal habitat.

Chinese farmers initially saw crayfish as an invasive pest. But a later discovery that local consumers liked its sweet and succulent taste prompted mass-rearing. Usually called "little lobster" at restaurants and delicatessens, its popularity has taken the country by storm in the past couple of years. Despite an 18% decline in exports due to trade barriers in the US and Europe, China's crayfish industry was last year worth Rmb268.5 billion (\$39.27 billion), up 83.2% on 2016.

Powering such growth was Hubei, which supplied 56% of the country's crayfish, totalling 113 million tonnes in 2017. While Jingzhou and Qianjiang – both within 220 kilometres of Wuhan – are the centres for harvesting and processing crayfish respectively, Wuhan provides the infrastructure for trading and exporting the popular



species. Its Baishazhou Seafood Market in the Hongshan district is the country's biggest crayfish dealer, selling 200 tonnes to buyers from across the country daily. Trains from the central city also transported 100,000 crayfish to Moscow during FIFA's 2018 World Cup.

The industry boom has given rise to various crayfish by-products such as *chitin*, a chemical most notable for its health benefits. Its manufacturing was supported by a Rmb500 million partnership between Wuhan University and Qianjiang-based Huashan Aquatic Food & Produce, which now derives the bulk of its income from exporting crayfish by-products.

Crayfish is generally available from March, but it gets meatier – and therefore tastes best – between June and August. A warning: do not eat crayfish if it's raw and avoid the heads, which are a hotbed for parasites.



# Where to eat

## **Dayin Art Restaurant & Wine House** (大胤艺术餐厅 • 酒艺术馆)

Linked to the historic Qingchuan Pavilion, Dayin distinguishes itself by presenting modern Hubei cuisine artistically. Grain porridge, for instance, will be disguised as a pot plant, and durian cakes will be shaped like ducklings. Opened by Cheng Jianlin, a renowned wine collector and sommelier from Wuhan, the petite restaurant features traditional Chinese décor with Buddhist elements. One allure of Dayin is the Chutian Wine Culture Museum of Art it houses, which showcases a wide range of Chinese liquor including some rare *baijiu*. Behind the glittering displays is an exclusive dining room which can be booked for executive lunches or dinners. It also hosts a quaint teahouse on the upper floor.

*Binjiang Avenue, Hanyang*

*– next to the public transportation station outside the main entrance of Qingchuan Pavilion  
(滨江大道晴川阁正门公交车站旁)*

## **Jiangtan Impression** (江滩 • 印象)

Here is where you can enjoy Hubei cuisine with a view of the Yangtze River. Next to the entrance to Jiangtan Park (a recreational area that features a 3.4km promenade along the Yangtze River), the restaurant offers *al fresco* dining on



**Dayin Art Restaurant & Wine House**



spot where the bustling dockyard of colonial Hankou used to be. The two-storey restaurant has a vintage interior. It does not offer any communal eating spaces, but instead has multiple suites that make your dining experience private. Guests are encouraged to try some locally made red wine.

*56 Yanjiang Road, Jiangtan Park, Hankou  
(沿江大道56号 - 江滩公园内)*

### **Jiajing Zhen (珈境·臻)**

If you are tired of having just Hubei cuisine during your stay in Wuhan, consider Jiajing Zhen, which serves various regional Chinese cuisines but with a modern twist. It is particularly good at turning street food such as glutinous rice cake (糍粑), deep-fried lotus root sandwich (炸藕夹), or brown sugar *guokui* (红糖锅盔) into exquisite items. Located in the buzzing commercial district of Jiangnan, the restaurant is ideal for business dining because of its quiet atmosphere and attentive service.

*3/F, Shanghai Pudong Development Bank Building,  
218 Xinhua Road, Jiangnan  
(新华路218号浦发银行大厦3楼)*

### **Xia Casserole (夏氏砂锅)**

A popular restaurant for both locals and visitors, Xia Casserole cooks up a wide array of agrarian Hubei cuisine.



**Xia Casserole**

Turtle casserole, authentic fish-paste noodles, and egg tofu are the highlights of this eatery where the provincial culinary traditions are well preserved. It also offers a uniquely modified hot dry noodles that features crab legs. The two-storey restaurant has antique Chinese décor and houses dozens of sequestered tables that offer a sense of privacy.

*231 Safety Village, Xuesong Road, Wangsongyuan, Jiangnan  
(万松园雪松路安全村231号)*

### **Hubu Alley (户部巷)**

This is where you can have it all. Dubbed “the number one alley for Han breakfast”, this 150m long walking street is lined with more than a hundred food stalls serving all kinds of Hubei snacks. Almost all the local food chains have an



**Hubei Alley**

outlet here, including Cai Linji (蔡林记), best known for hot dry noodles; Four Seasons' Soup Dumplings (四季美汤包); and braised duck retailer Zhouheiya (周黑鸭). Close to the shipyard on the Yangtze River, Hubei Lane has been a hotbed of culinary activity ever since the Ming Dynasty, when it was part of the area that hosted the local treasury and grain stores called Simenkou (司门口). It later became a breakfast hangout as commuters took to grabbing a quick bite before taking their ferries to work. It is also popular among tourists, who tend to drop by after visiting the Yellow Crane Tower or Chairman Mao's old residence which is nearby. Hubei Alley can be crowded throughout the evening till midnight. Jiqing Street (吉庆街), in the former concession area of Jiang'an, also sells a similar range of famed Wuhan snacks.

## Cafés & bars

### Angelina

The Parisian café put its third China outlet in Wuhan's most luxurious mall Wuhan International Plaza. You can have a cup of authentic hot chocolate with French pastries here.

*B1, Wuhan International Plaza, 690 Jiefang Avenue, Jianghan*  
(江汉区解放大道690号武汉国际广场地库B1)

### Beyond Book Story (物外书店)

Opened in April 2017, the 75 square metre bookstore is housed inside a colonial building along Zhongshan Road. It used to be the office of Dafu Bank during the early twentieth century and post-1949 became the magazine department of the Wuhan Library. It has since undergone a makeover by architect Lee Wei-min, who had previously designed the popular Eslite bookstores from Taiwan. English titles, however, only account for a small corner of the bookstore. The café provides fresh juices and Western pastries. It also allows you to recharge your phone. There is a 10,000 square metre outlet in Hanyang, which features a garden patio and another newly-opened venue in the K11 mall in the Optics Valley.

*637 Zhongshan Road, Jiang'an, Hankou*  
(江岸区中山大道637号)

**Hubei Lane has been a hotbed of culinary activity since the Ming Dynasty**



*4/f, Tower B, Renxin World Centre,  
58 Longyang Avenue, Hanyang*  
(汉阳王家湾人信汇B座4楼)

*2/f, Wuhan K11 Art Mall, 355 Guanshan Road,  
Optics Valley, Wuchang*  
(关山大道355号武汉K11购物艺术中心光谷店2楼)

### **Big Water Café (大水的店)**

Visually appealing, this quaint coffee shop features retro décor with floor-to-ceiling bookcases, vintage furniture, mosaic tiles and ornaments. Its foyer is an exhibition space showcasing various cultural products inspired by Wuhan, most remarkably a hand-drawn city guide by the café's owner. Should you visit the caffeinated hideaway, do also take a stroll in its Tanhualin (昙华林) neighborhood.

During the Ming and Qing Dynasties, Tanhualin was where Hubei's *xiucai* – scholars who passed the county level exams – gathered and studied for the higher-level imperial examination. After Hankou was forced open in 1861, foreign missionaries came here to preach, open public schools and run clinics. Today only a handful of those old buildings are preserved, however.

*56 Tanhualin Road, Tanhualin, Wuchang*  
(昙华林路昙华林56号)

### **Lihuangpi Road (黎黄陂路)**

A good place to rest your legs after touring around the former concession quarter where heritage buildings are scattered. In continental style, Lihuangpi Road is a colourful street lined with 'hipster' cafes. Many offer alfresco dining. It's a popular site where local couples shoot their pre-wedding pictures.

*Lihuangpi Road, Jiang'an*  
(江岸区黎黄陂路)

### **Up Coffee (矢量咖啡)**

This café is located inside the Sisyphe Bookstore. Quiet and work-friendly with free wifi and power outlets, it offers a reasonable coffee selection.

*3F, Horizon Shopping Mall, Wuhan Tiandi, Jiang'an, Hankou*  
(江岸区武汉天地壹方购物中心3F)

### **Brussels & Atomium Beer Pub**

Known for its warm and friendly atmosphere, The Atomium is a place to drink Belgian beers and meet up with visitors and expats. Patrons can enjoy the view of the Xibei Lake on the bar's terrace.

*XiBeiHu Lu 8-8, Hankou*  
(汉口西北湖路8附8号)





# Where to stay

## The Westin Wuhan Wuchang

Close to the Yangtze River, The Westin Wuhan Wuchang has luxurious rooms, an indoor swimming pool and soothing spa treatments. It offers six restaurants, including a wine bar-cum-cigar lounge. The eight private dining rooms at its Chinese restaurant (Zen5es) all feature a stunning outdoor balcony overlooking the Yangtze River and the city beyond. The upscale accommodation also provides secretarial and translation services at its business centre.

*96 Linjiang Road, Wuchang*  
(武昌临江路96号)

## Wanda Realm Wuhan

At one end of the shopping street of Chuhe Hanjie, and just opposite to the acclaimed Han Show Theatre, Wanda Realm Wuhan offers convenient access to shopping, entertainment and fine dining options. The complimentary buffet breakfast is sumptuous, featuring both Western and Asian styles, including popular Hubei dishes. Its palatial multipurpose rooms are ideal for business meetings and banquets.

*105 Donghu Road, Shuiguohu Street, Wuchang*  
(武昌水果湖街东湖路105号)



The Westin Wuhan Wuchang

## Marco Polo Wuhan

At the centre of the former concession area of Hankou, Marco Polo Wuhan stands out for its impeccable service. Its café The Verandah is well-known for its selection of speciality coffees, teas and traditional high teas. The hotel is just minutes away from Jiangtan Park, a recreational precinct that features a scenic promenade along the Yangtze River.

*159 Yanjiang Avenue, Jiang'an, Hankou*  
(汉口江岸区沿江大道159号)



**New World Wuhan Hotel**

### **New World Wuhan Hotel**

Run by Hong Kong-based New World Development, this five-star hotel is located at the heart of Hankou's commercial district. It is within walking distance of many of the regional offices of multinational companies, the Wuhan International Plaza and Wuhan International Convention and Exhibition Centre. It houses a Chinese restaurant that serves Cantonese, Sichuan and local Wuhan cuisines, as well as an Italian trattoria with an open kitchen.

*630 Jiefang Avenue, Qiao Kou, Hankou*  
(汉口硚口区解放大道630号)

### **Hilton Wuhan Riverside**

Sitting almost at the confluence of the Han River and the Yangtze River, this Hilton (in Hanyang) is just minutes away from the city centre of Hankou. The best view of Wuchang – featuring the Yellow Crane Tower – can be viewed from The Brasserie which serves breakfast daily. The hotel also houses a Chinese restaurant with 10 private dining rooms and a cosy Western restaurant. It has a fully-equipped gym, yoga room, as well as an indoor pool and a spa.

*190 Binjiang Avenue, Hanyang*  
(汉阳滨江大道190号)

### **InterContinental Wuhan**

Next to the Wuhan International Expo Centre, the InterContinental Wuhan offers high quality rooms and suites, with many facing the Yangtze River. Guests can enjoy a selection of English and Chinese teas as well as savoury snacks at its palatial lobby lounge accompanied by music. It is linked directly to a convention centre that accommodates 65 function rooms, including a 4,000-seat grand ballroom.

*666 Qingchuan Boulevard, Hanyang*  
(汉阳市清川大道666号)

# Attractions

## Temples and towers

### Yellow Crane Tower (黄鹤楼)

One of the four most renowned towers in China, the Yellow Crane Tower was built during the Three Kingdoms Period as a lookout spot. Its fame grew as many classical Chinese poets including Cui Hao and Li Bai drew inspiration from its beauty. The tower was damaged and repaired at least seven times during the Ming and Qing Dynasties, and completely wrecked in a fire in 1884. The current structure was erected in 1981. Sitting on the peak of the Snake Hill in Wuchang, the five-storied yellow-tiled pagoda offers a vantage point over the Yangtze River. Its surrounding area has been developed into a recreational park, which also hosts the Jingchu dance and music shows performed by the Yellow Crane Tower Entertainment Group. (Jingchu is a pre-Han regional culture that emerged in the Han River region in the West Zhou Dynasty between 1066-256BC.)

### Guiyuan Temple (归元寺)

Established in 1658, Guiyuan Temple was once a royal temple of the Great Qing. Having experienced the ravages of wars and revolutions, its existing structures were reconstructed in fits and starts during the reigns of Emperors Xianfeng, Tongzhi and Guangxu. Thanks to



Yellow Crane Tower

Zhou Enlai, the first Premier of the People's Republic of China, it escaped the devastation of the Cultural Revolution and underwent a significant rebuilding and expansion after 1973. Today the sanctuary covers an area of 17,500 square metres with more than 200 temples, storing roughly 7,000 volumes of Buddhist classics. The entrance has a huge lotus pond with fish and turtles, where believers partake in *fangsheng* (i.e. a rite to symbolically “relieve” or “save” the lives of creatures destined for slaughter). A key building is the Arhat Hall

**Yellow Crane Tower is one of the four most renowned towers in China and inspired classical poets like Cui Hao and Li Bai**



**Guqin Tai is a tranquil recreational site that commemorates the musician Bo Ya**



**Guiyuan Temple**

(also known as Luohan Tang) where 500 life-like Arhats sculptures are displayed. It is also worth checking out the Yuantong Ge close to the Guanyin Square. Completed in 2013, Yuantong Ge is a two-part structure with a pavilion sitting on a pedestal made of granite stone. The pedestal is a quiet hall with many images of Guanyin, or Avalokiteśvar.

### **Gude Temple (古德寺)**

Located in Hankou, Gude Temple exudes an exotic air given its unique architectural style was modelled on the Ananda Temple in Myanmar's Bagan. With Ionic columns and elaborate window grilles, it appears more like a gothic



**Gude Temple**

cathedral than a typical Chinese Buddhist temple. Completed in 1913, Gude Temple is not what it once was. Unfortunately, it suffered considerable damage during the Cultural Revolution and is still in disrepair. Tourists can pay a visit by offering incense in lieu of entrance tickets.

### **Guqin Tai (古琴台)**

A tranquil recreational site that commemorates Bo Ya, a musician that specialised in the *guqin* (a plucked seven-string Chinese instrument), during the Spring and Autumn Periods. Legends suggests the site is where Bo met his confidant Zhong Ziqi – both were from Hubei. A year after their encounter, Bo learnt that Zhong had passed away. The



**Qingchuan Pavilion**

tragic news broke Bo's heart because he felt that nobody could understand his music anymore. He then broke his *guqin* and decided to never play it again. The famed relationship between Bo and Zhong is associated with a common idiomatic Chinese expression *zhiyin*, which connotes friendship while literally meaning "understanding the music".

### **Qingchuan Pavilion (晴川閣)**

A historic site that comprises Qingchuan Tower, Yuji Palace and Tiemen Gate. Yuji Palace was built between 1131-1162 during the Southern Song Dynasty to commemorate Yu the Great, the legendary ruler who tamed the deluge

and is said to have inaugurated dynastic rule in ancient China. The Palace underwent a revamp in the Ming Dynasty, during which the Qingchuan Tower was added to match the Yellow Crane Tower on the opposite side of the Yangtze River. The site is also linked to Tiemen Gate (铁门关) – erected during the Three Kingdoms Period by Wu to defend itself against Wei. Tiemen Gate had been a key military fortress until after the Tang Dynasty. Yet it was destroyed during the late Ming. The current structure was rebuilt in 1993. Qingchuan Tower is likewise a reconstruction as it fell into ruins during the 1911 revolution.

## **Museums**

### **Hubei Provincial Museum (湖北省博物馆)**

One of the eight national museums in China, it collected over 200,000 artefacts, with many unearthed from Paleolithic sites as well as from tombs of Chu from the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods. Among its treasures include the bronze Sword of Goujian, the Chime Bells (the largest musical instrument ever discovered), the Blue-and-white *saitu* vase from the Yuan Dynasty and items from the tomb of Prince Liangzhuang of the Ming Dynasty. Do also check out the East Lake Eco-tourism Zone

**Hubei Provincial Museum contains 200,000 artefacts and is one of eight national museums in China**



**The Hankou Customs House was erected in 1924 in the European style**



**Hankou Customs House Museum**

(东湖生态旅游风景区), which is just 1.8km away from the museum, and reachable in 30 minutes on foot or five minutes by car.

### **Hankou Customs House Museum (江汉关博物馆)**

Through historical documents, photos, and artefacts, this museum evokes the development of Hankou as a treaty port and what life was like in the concession area following the Qing's defeat by Britain and France in the second Opium War in 1858. The building that houses the museum is a European-style structure erected in 1924 by the colonial powers to celebrate the diamond jubilee of



**1911 Revolution Museum**

the opening up of Hankou. It was previously the office of the Hankou Customs department responsible for examining and taxing imports and exports, postal services and port administration. Sitting at the juncture of the bustling Jiangnan Road and the Hankou Bund (facing onto the Yangtze River), the complex is now a Wuhan landmark.

### **1911 Revolution Museum (辛亥革命博物馆)**

Chronicling the revolution that toppled the last dynasty in China, it opened in 2011 to commemorate the Centennial anniversary of the event (see page 15). Apart



**Wuhan Art Museum**

from historical records, the museum also presents models and lively simulations to vividly recount the history. Located south of Shouyi Square, it is just minutes from the former site of the Hubei Military Government.

### **Wuhan Art Museum (武汉美术馆)**

With a collection of modern and contemporary art by local artists – the bulk of which are oil paintings – the museum has special exhibitions showcasing *guohua* (a kind of native painting that usually features black ink, watercolour and calligraphy), sculpture, and photography. Its neoclassical style building is the former site of Tianjin-

based Kincheng Banking Corporation, one of the four best capitalised commercial banks in northern China during the 1920s.

## **Pedestrian streets**

### **Jiangnan Road (江汉路)**

Jiangnan Road has been a busy commercial hub since a century ago when Hankou was forced open by Western powers. Many of the colonial-style buildings lining the 1.6-kilometre street used to be the offices of local banks, and are now repurposed for sporting goods, fashion, electronics, and food retailers. It stretches from the junction linking the Jiefang Avenue through to the Hankou Customs House Museum on the Yanjiang Avenue. Along Yanjiang Avenue, which faces the Hankou Bund, stands the former residence of Madame Sun Yat-sen, converted from a Russian bank. Jiangnan Road is also in close proximity with a number of shopping complexes such as the Wangfujing department store and CK Hutchison's M+ shopping mall.

### **Zhongshan Avenue (中山大道)**

Named for Sun Yat-sen, the 8.5-kilometre thoroughfare was once a key traffic artery of Hankou cutting through

**Along Yanjiang Avenue stands the former residence of Madame Sun Yat-sen**



# Zhang Zhidong

Not many historical figures have the same honour, but Zhang Zhidong has a road named after him in Wuhan. Moreover, memorials of Zhang can be found throughout Hubei's provincial capital, including numerous heritage buildings built by his pupils to commemorate him.

Zhang was one of the four most famous officials of the late Qing Dynasty. In 1889, he was appointed as viceroy, or governor-general of Hubei. That was one of the darkest periods of China's so-called "Century of Humiliations" when the country was torn apart by wars and foreign interventions. Yet during Zhang's 17-year tenure as the viceroy of Hubei, he was credited for laying the foundations that turned Wuhan into a modern city.

Such was his impact that even Mao Zedong once remarked that the Chinese should not forget Zhang's contribution when it comes to the development of the country's heavy industry.

The scholar-official was a reputable reformer in the Qing court, although he still insisted on the importance of traditional Chinese values. His thinking could be best summarised in the verse "Chinese learning for fundamental principles and Western learning for practical



application", which Zhang himself wrote in 1889.

His first move in Wuhan was to set up a government-owned textile plant in Wuchang in 1893. That was followed by the creation of a large steel and munitions plant at Hanyang. The latter, also known as the Hanyang Arsenal,





was the largest heavy industrial plant in Asia at the time. It set the industrial standards for “made in China” in products that included heat-resistant bricks, steel tools and, most importantly, guns. Hanyang 88, or Hanyang Zao, which simply means “made in Hanyang”, based on the German Gewehr 88, became the most widely adopted (and most trusted) weapon used by most Chinese troops.

Zhang also sent workers and students to study in European countries, with a focus on engineering and modern industrial technologies.

The local economy boomed as a result and gave rise to the concept of “Big Wuhan”. Under Zhang’s influence Wuhan’s economy became the second largest in China, trailing only Shanghai.

Zhang died in 1909 but he had sowed the seeds for the 1911 revolution that made the Republic of China possible. That was because the two most important ingredients for an uprising to happen – money and guns – were both easily available in Wuhan, all thanks to Zhang’s achievement.

A museum dedicated to Zhang was established in Yue Lake, on the spot where the old Hanyang Iron Works factory stood. It was completed in May 2018 by New York-based Studio Libeskind.



Zhang Zhidong Memorial in Zhongshan Park

**Under Zhang’s influence Wuhan’s economy became the second largest in China**



**Zhongshan Avenue got a two-year makeover in 2016 and links up 48 streets including the picturesque Lihuangpi Road**



**Jiangnan Road**

different concession zones. Thanks to a two-year makeover completed in 2016, it now links up 48 streets such as the picturesque Lihuangpi Road (黎黄陂路) and accommodates over 160 heritage buildings, including the former headquarters of the Wuhan National Government. Now a museum, the former headquarters is where the Kuomintang and the Communist Party plotted against regional warlords. Reminiscent of other metropolitan walking streets (think Regent Street in London), Zhongshan Avenue glistens at night when all the shops are lit up.

### **Chuhehan Street (楚河汉街)**

This area comprises an artificial river connecting two inner city lakes and a walking street (parts are underground) lined with food stores and international brands such as Zara, Gap and Muji. Developed by Beijing-



**Chu River Han Street**

based Wanda Group, the Rmb50 billion (\$7.35 billion) tourism-cum-amusement complex features a number of landmark projects including a Madame Tussauds museum, the Han Show Theatre (see below), and a massive IMAX Cinema. The indoor movie theme park – inside a huge gold building shaped like a set of ancient Chinese bells – has been under renovation since the second half of 2016. The 1.5-kilometre pedestrian street also leads to other shopping malls and to upscale hotels run by Wanda.

## **Recreational sites**

### **East Lake Eco-tourism Zone (东湖生态旅游风景区)**

Fancy some serenity amid nature and idyllic scenes? Then visit the eco-tourism zone developed around the East Lake,



**A bridge in East Lake, Wuhan**

the second largest inner city lake in China. (For perspective, it is six times the size of the famed West Lake in Hangzhou.) Covering an area of 88 square kilometres, the site is divided into five parts, with Tingtao and Moshan being the most popular ones. Apart from woods and lakes, the eco-tourism zone features a great many monuments celebrating ancient Jingchu culture.

An efficient way to see the East Lake is to take the 100-minute sightseeing cruise at the Han Street harbour, which departs every hour between 10am-4pm and 7pm-9pm.

### **Zhongshan Park (中山公园)**

Named after Sun Yat-sen, the founding father of republican China, Zhongshan is one of the biggest urban parks in Wuhan. It has undergone multiple expansions since being nationalised in 1927. With an area of 328,000 square metres, the park is divided into three parts. The central area contains historical monuments such as the Japanese Surrender Hall, the bronze statue of Sun Yat-sen and his wife Soong Ching-ling, and a building in memory of Zhang Zhidong (see box on page 52). At the rear is an amusement park with over 40 different rides such as a Ferris Wheel, a roller coaster, a water slide and bumper cars. Closer to the entrance are a number of gardens and ponds that locals enjoy for chilling out, dancing and exercising.

## **Entertainment**

### **Han Show (汉秀)**

This is a 90-minute performance that integrates dance, music, acrobatics, sports, stunts, and electronic visual effects. It is directed by Franco Dragone, the Italian-Belgian dramatist famed for producing the most prestigious shows by Canada's Cirque du Soleil. The iconic theatre, designed by British architect Mark Fisher, resembles a

**The East Lake is six times bigger than Hangzhou's famed West Lake**



**Zhiyinhao is a 70-minute show telling the story of Wuhan since the 1920s**



**Han Show**

traditional “red lantern”. It features a 27.5m high diving platform and a massive performance pool that has a capacity equivalent to four Olympic swimming pools.

### **Zhiyinhao (知音号)**

More than a grand steam liner on the Yangtze River, Zhiyinhao is a museum-cum-playhouse that tells the story of Wuhan since the 1920s. Adopting the style of an experiential theatre, the 70-minute performance at Zhiyinhao is not confined to the stage, but roams between the wharf, the decks and hundreds of cabins. The idea is to

let the audience interact with the cast and be part of the drama. One can also try on Republican outfits during the cruise. The production is led by Fan Yue, the esteemed director who supervised the opening and closing ceremonies of the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008.

## **Red Tourism**

Since 2005 the Chinese government has actively promoted a type of tourism that aims to instil the principles and spirit of the Chinese Communist Party. In Wuhan, such attractions are concentrated in the Dufudi Revolutionary Area (都府堤红色旅游景区) in Wuchang, which comprises the former residence of Mao Zedong, the heritage site of the Peasant Movement Training Institute, the memorial hall of martyr Chen Tanqiu, and the official venue of the fifth national congress of the CPC. The linking thread of these locales is the armed conflicts between the Kuomintang (KMT)-led government of the Republic of China and Mao’s Red Army, which escalated after 1927 when the KMT (led by Chiang Kai-shek) commanded a violent purge of communists in Shanghai. The neighbourhood also owes its significance to the Party literature “Report on Hunan Peasants Movement,” written by Mao during his stay in Wuhan in 1927. ■