

Climate & Chronology

Average Monthly Temperatures (°C) and Rainfall (mm) of Major Tourist Cities

		Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
		max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min	max	min
Beijing	temp °C	1	-9	4	-7	11	-1	19	7	26	13	30	18	31	21	29	20	26	14	19	7	10	-1	3	-7
	rainfall mm	3		5		10		25		28		71		175		183		48		18		5		3	
Chongqing	temp °C	11	6	13	7	18	11	23	15	27	19	29	22	33	24	34	23	28	21	22	16	17	12	12	7
	rainfall mm	18		22		43		97		152		172		153		123		143		98		47		22	
Guilin	temp °C	9	2	9	3	15	7	21	1	26	17	29	21	32	23	32	23	28	19	22	14	17	9	11	3
	rainfall mm	38		48		71		165		208		196		119		122		66		104		69		33	
Hangzhou	temp °C	8	1	9	2	14	6	20	12	25	17	29	21	31	25	32	25	28	20	23	14	17	8	11	3
	rainfall mm	67		93		117		132		163		203		132		157		183		73		62		53	
Hong Kong	temp °C	19	14	19	15	22	17	25	21	28	24	30	26	32	27	32	27	31	26	28	24	24	19	21	16
	rainfall mm	28		43		74		140		284		399		363		376		297		119		38		25	
Kunming	temp °C	15	1	17	3	20	5	23	9	24	14	23	16	24	17	24	16	22	14	20	11	17	7	15	2
	rainfall mm	13		13		15		28		91		173		206		206		122		89		41		13	
Lhasa	temp °C	7	-11	9	-7	12	-3	16	1	19	5	22	9	22	10	21	9	19	7	16	1	11	-5	7	-9
	rainfall mm	0		0		3		5		28		74		119		122		58		10		3		0	
Nanjing	temp °C	7	-1	8	0	14	4	20	10	25	18	29	20	32	24	32	24	28	19	22	13	16	6	9	0
	rainfall mm	33		53		72		87		97		143		177		123		87		47		46		33	
Sanya	temp °C	26	18	27	19	28	21	30	24	31	25	32	26	32	26	31	25	31	24	30	23	28	21	27	19
	rainfall mm	7		7		12		33		112		187		152		213		257		222		43		8	
Shanghai	temp °C	7	0	8	1	12	5	18	11	23	16	27	20	31	24	31	24	27	20	22	14	17	8	11	2
	rainfall mm	38		58		81		102		114		152		130		132		155		61		51		36	
Urumqi	temp °C	-9	-19	-6	-16	3	-6	16	5	23	11	28	16	31	18	29	17	21	11	14	3	2	-7	-6	-16
	rainfall mm	7		12		23		32		33		32		27		23		23		22		17		12	
Wuhan	temp °C	8	0	9	2	15	6	21	12	26	18	30	22	33	26	33	25	28	20	23	14	17	8	10	2
	rainfall mm	37		63		97		128		167		208		163		122		82		73		52		33	
Xian	temp °C	4	-4	7	2	14	3	20	9	26	13	31	18	32	21	31	21	24	15	19	9	12	3	6	-3
	rainfall mm	8		10		25		51		66		51		94		66		107		66		25		5	

Seasons

Spring	late March – late May	10 – 20°C
Summer	June – late September	over 22°C
Autumn	October – November	10 – 20°C
Winter	December – early March	0 – 10°C

Suggested clothing

Windbreaker or light jacket, thick sweater, long sleeve shirt, jeans T-shirt or short-sleeved shirt, sandals, sun glasses & wet weather gear
 Windbreaker or light jacket, thin sweater, jeans & wet weather gear
 Thick woollen or down-filled coat, thick sweaters & trousers, warm shoes or boots

Climate Changes

Weather patterns in China, as in the rest of the world, are changing. The months of July and August are seeing the most dramatic changes. In the south the rainy season has become much more severe, with higher rainfall. Conversely, in the north and the west of the country we are seeing hot drier conditions which have resulted in poor air quality, particularly in Beijing and Xi'an. However weather conditions for the 'main' season in China i.e. February to June and September to November remain good across the majority of the country. Therefore these periods remain the best times to visit China.

A Brief Chinese/World Chronology

Dynasty	Date	Chinese Event	World Event
Xia	21st – 16th C BC		
Shang	16th – 11th C BC	Banpo in the Yellow River Basin build Bronze-Age town of Erlitou in Henan.	England has long been settled by bands of hunters.
Zhou	11th C – 221 BC	Spring & Autumn period, Warring States period.	Founding of Rome Alexander the Great conquers Egypt & Western Asia.
Qin	221 – 201 BC	Construction begins on The Great Wall . Terracotta Army guard Qin's tomb.	Hannibal crosses the Alps.
Han	206 BC – 220 AD	Silk Road starting from Xi'an. Confucianism made official State ideology.	Julius Caesar invades England. Crucifixion of Jesus.
Three Kingdoms	220 – 280	Compass developed.	Sassanian Empire of Persia.
Western Jin	265 – 316	Earliest Longman caves near Luoyang.	
Eastern Jin	317 – 420		Constantinople becomes capital of Roman Empire.
Northern	386 – 581	Extension & strengthening of Great Wall ; digging of Grand Canal .	Birth and death of Mohammed.
Southern	420 – 589		Fall of Roman Empire.
Tang	618 – 907	Great Buddha at Leshan completed.	Rise of Arab Empire.
Five	907 – 960	Cliff sculptures of Dazu.	
Song	960 – 1279	Zhouzhuang village first established.	William the Conqueror.
Liao	916 – 1125	Liao dynasty rules Yuzhou and renames it Nanjing (Nanking).	Henry I
Jin	1115 – 1234	Imperial Palaces built in Nanjing.	Henry II
Yuan	1271 – 1368	Genghis Khan founds Mongol Empire.	Henry III, Hundred Year's War.
Ming	1368 – 1644	Forbidden City built in 1420.	Edward III
Qing	1644 – 1911	Potala Palace in Lhasa rebuilt by Fifth Dalai Lama. Summer Palace in Beijing is completed. The first and second Opium Wars.	The Great Fire of London. Elizabeth I. Shakespeare.
Republic of China	1912 – 1949	Parts of China occupied by the Japanese.	First and Second World Wars.
People's Republic of China	1949 –	Mao establishes the PRC in Beijing October 1st 1949. Great Leap Forward 1956-58. Cultural Revolution 1966-76. Death of Mao 1976.	Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.