# An Expat's Guide to Living and Working in Guangzhou



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# **Guangzhou!**



## **Basic Facts**

Guangzhou, abbreviated as "Sui" (meaning "the ear of rice"), is known as Canton in the old days. Dubbed as the "Ram City" and the "Flower City", it is a terminus of the ancient Maritime Silk Road in China with a history of over 2,200 years. It now boasts multiple city functions including the national central city, international business center, and comprehensive transportation hub.



## City flower: Kapok flower

Kapok tree is known as the hero tree in South China and kapok flower the king of the flowers in Guangzhou.

Flower language: heroic, strong and indomitable.

## City bird: Chinese thrush

It feeds on insects. The song bird stands out for its tuneful, beautiful singing. And the ancients mimicked its singing as "Ruyi" (meaning "as you wish").

Nickname: Ruyi Bird or Hero Bird.



# Living in Guangzhou



## Arrival



## Visas on Arrival

If you hold an ordinary passport with an urgent need to enter China but have insufficient time to apply for a visa at a Chinese embassy or consulate before departure, you may apply for a port visa for entry, either by yourself or through your inviting party.



## Scan to access the procedures for port visa application in Guangzhou



#### Application for residence permits and visas

The Guangzhou Public Security Bureau Mini-program provides guide for you to make reservations for residence permits, apply for visas, or report passport loss.

2

Scan to access the Guangzhou Public Security Bureau Miniprogram and fill in the forms according to guidelines





Scan to access a step-by-step guide of the application

3

## **Application for work permits**

Scan to access the application procedures.



## **Payment Options**

During your stay in Guangzhou, you have multiple payment options: mobile payment, foreign currency exchange, bank account services, etc.



## **WeChat Pay**

WeChat Pay now accepts international credit cards, including Visa, DJN, JCB and Mastercard.





Scan to learn how to link your international credit cards to WeChat Pay in 3 steps



#### **Alipay**

Alipay is an electronic wallet service provider similar to PayPal. You can pay using Alipay at almost all restaurants, supermarkets, grocery stores and hotels in Guangzhou. You can also take bus with Alipay.





Scan to learn how to link your international credit cards to Alipay

If you cannot apply in person for a SIM card, scan to apply online.



## Transportation



#### Airport

The 1.16 million-square-meter Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport is located in the north of Guangzhou, and is one of the largest airports in China. (Scan to access the English official website of Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport)





#### **High-speed railway stations**

There are several high-speed railway stations in Guangzhou such as Guangzhou South Railway Station, Guangzhou North Railway Station, Guangzhou East Railway Station, and Guangzhou Baiyun Railway Station.

Scan to access the 12306 mini-program for ticket purchase







#### Metro service

Guangzhou Metro usually runs from 6 am to 11 pm. You can download the "Guangzhou Metro" app to check the stations and routes. (Scan to download)



#### Guangzhou Metro fares are distance-based:

- >> 2 yuan within the first four kilometers;
- >> An additional 1 yuan will be charged for every 4 kilometers increase within the range of 4-12 kilometers.

Passengers can pay their fare using cash, transport card, or e-payment.

#### **Bus service**

Guangzhou buses operate according to the prescribed schedule, mostly from 6:15 am to 10:30 pm. (Scan to check the live location of your bus)



#### **Pricing:**

- 2 yuan within & at 20 kilometers;
- >> 3 yuan above 20 kilometers

Passengers can pay their fare using cash (no change for cash), transport card, or e-payment.



#### Taxi service

If you cannot speak Chinese, it is recommended that you use translation software to translate the destination into Chinese for the driver, or call the 960169 multilingual service platform for assistance.

Pricing: 12 yuan for the first 3 kilometers, 2.6 yuan per kilometer beyond

You can also use taxis-hailing apps such as Didi Chuxing, Hello Chuxing, Baidu Maps, Caocao Chuxing, ONTIME, etc.



#### Shared bicycles

Shared bicycles is a common transportation in Guangzhou. There are several options such as Meituan Bike (yellow), Hello Bike (blue), Qingju Bike (green), etc. (Scan to access the guide to bike share in Guangzhou)





#### Car rental service

You must be at least 18 years old to rent a car in China. You also need to have a valid Chinese driving license or temporary driving permit, valid ID, and international/Chinese credit cards.



## Lingnan Pass: Yangchengtong

This card can be used on public transport including the metro, buses, trams, ferries, etc. in Guangzhou. It can also be used in 20 cities in Guangdong Province.



## Schooling

Guangzhou boasts a comprehensive education system. Besides public schools as a major component of its education, it also offers an international curriculum in bilingual private schools and international schools for children of foreign nationals, aiming to enhance intercultural competence of students.

Students of the following categories will be arranged to attend the nearest public/private schools without examination after being verified and publicized as recipients of favorable enrollment policies by the local education authority of the district of their residence.

- 1 Children of overseas Chinese;
- 2 Children of foreign personnel holding the Foreign Permanent Resident ID Card (the minor holders included);
- 3 Children of Taiwanese compatriots;
- 4 School-age children of Hong Kong and Macao residents who have made outstanding contributions;
- 5 School-age children of diplomatic personnel at institutions such as the foreign consulates in Guangzhou, etc.

Children of other foreign nationals may choose to attend schools for children of foreign nationals. There are 18 such international schools in Guangzhou for your choice.



Scan to access the List of Schools for Children of Foreign Nationals in Guangzhou

## Social Insurances



## Social insurance benefits

According to the law, foreign nationals working in Guangzhou also enjoy the right to social insurance, including pension insurance, medical insurance, work injury insurance, unemployment insurance, and maternity insurance. You can also purchase additional private health insurance for a stronger safety net.

Dental insurance
Travel accident insurance
Outpatient insurance

**Tips:** Diversify your choice by obtaining quotes from different insurance companies. Compare their prices, benefits, and coverage to get the best deal.

## Insurance coverage

- 1 Foreigners working in Guangzhou shall participate in social insurance through their employers;
- 2 Individuals with the nationality of countries that have signed bilateral or multilateral social insurance agreements with China are employed in Guangzhou shall apply for insurance coverage in accordance with the provisions of the agreement;
- 3 Unemployed foreign nationals holding permanent residence permits can voluntarily participate in insurance as individuals.



Scan to access the relevant policies and regulations on purchasing social insurance for foreigners in China

## Hospitals

Guangzhou boasts a well-developed medical and healthcare system, with general and specialized hospitals conveniently distributed in all districts. You can go directly to the hospital for medical treatment. If there is an emergency situation, you can also call 120 hotline to request emergency medical services. Almost all hospitals have emergency departments.

Scan to access the list of general public hospitals (tertiary hospitals)



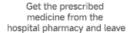


Scan to access the list of general public hospitals (tertiary hospitals)



## Procedures of seeing a doctor in China





Pay fees at the payment counter or pay online



Tests and treatment



Scan to access procedures of medical treatment on "Guangzhou Health Link" app

## **Accommodation**



## **Hotel reservation**

Your ideal hotel is only a click-and-scroll away on various apps like Ctrip, Meituan, Fliggy, etc.



## Renting

You can find a real estate agent in your interested community or nearby area to help you find suitable houses/apartments. It is important to carefully go through the lease and the facilities of the house before signing the rental contract.

**Tips:** You need to bring your passport or residence permit for a contract, and update online about the rental information after signing.

## The expenses involved in renting a house

Rent	Paid once a month or every 3/6/12 months as agreed with the landlord.
Deposit	Usually 1–2 months' rent. Returned after your tenancy ends.
Management fees	Paid monthly for the maintenance of public areas.
Intermediary fee	A one-off fee paid to the real estate agent. Usually half a month's rent.

## **Daily Necessities**



## **Utility bills**

There are multiple ways to pay your living expenses. You can either go to the post office, bank, or utility office in person, or foot your bill online through e-platforms such as WeChat or Alipay.



#### WI-FI

Free WI-FI is available in most public places in Guangzhou, such as train stations, airports, coffee shops, restaurants, and convenience stores. You can ask the clerk to get the WI-FI password.





## Waste classification

You should sort your household waste before putting them into different bins accordingly.



Red Hazardous waste



Green Food waste



Blue Recyclable waste



Black Residual Waste



## **Express delivery service**

There is a wide range of express delivery companies for your choice in Guangzhou that provides intra-city, cross-city and international shipment.

**Tips:** You must show your passport/foreign permanent resident ID card when making a shipment in Guangzhou.



# Having Fun in Guangzhou



## **Tourist Attractions**

#### Canton Tower

Address: No. 222, Yuejiang West Road, Haizhu District

Dubbed as Slim Waist, Canton Tower is also known as Guangzhou New TV Tower. It stands 125 meters away from the south bank of the Pearl River and faces the Zhujiang New Town, Huacheng Square and Haixinsha Island across the river to the north. The 600-meter Canton Tower is the tallest tower in China and one of the most popular attractions in Guangzhou.





## Baiyun Mountain

🙎 Address: No. 801, Guangyuan Middle Road, Tonghe Subdistrict, Baiyun District.



One of the famous mountains in South Guangdong, Baiyun Mountain is known as the top mountain in Guangzhou with the best scenery since ancient times. It is the first national 5A scenic area in Guangzhou, and also a National Civilized Scenic and Tourist Area, the only tourist attraction in Guangzhou crowned with both titles.

## Beijing Road Pedestrian Street

Address: Beijing Road, Yuexiu District.

With culture, entertainment, and business all wrapped into one, Beijing Road Pedestrian Street is the most vibrant business hub in Guangzhou's history, attracting 100 million tourists every year. It is also the starting point of Guangzhou's urban construction, surrounded by attractions like the Nanyue King



Museum and the Guangzhou Big Buddha Temple.

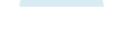
## Shamian Island

Address: No.3, Shamian South Street, Liwan District.

Shamian Island, literally "sandy surface" and once called Shicuizhou (meaning "green and lush island"), is a sandbar in the Pearl River formed by alluvial deposits. Shamian is an important commercial port in Guangzhou. Over the past century, more than ten countries established consulates in Shamian, and nine foreign banks and over forty foreign firms operated here. The European-style architecture on the island has formed a unique open-air museum of historical buildings.







## Xiguan Yongqing Fang Tourist Area

2 Address: No. 99, Enning Road, Liwan District



Yongqing Fang is located on Enning Road, the most beautiful arcade street in Liwan District of Guangzhou. Formerly known as Xiguan, the region boasts rich cultural heritages. The 76-hectare tourist area consists of three iconic scenic spots: Yongqing Fang, Art Museum of Cantonese Opera, and Lychee Bay.

#### Yuexiu Park



Address: No. 988, Jiefang North Road, Yuexiu District.



The largest park in Guangzhou, Yuexiu Park is named after the "Chaohan Terrace" built on the Yuexiu Mountain by the Nanyue King Zhao Tuo during the Western Han Dynasty (202 B.C.-8 A.D.). The park houses many attractions such as Zhenhai Tower, the site of ancient city wall, Sun

Yat-sen Monument, Seamen's Pavilion, Five Rams Stone Statue, and sculptures about the five rams legend.

## Huacheng Square



Address: No. 89, Huacheng Avenue, Tianhe District.

Known as the "living room" of Guangzhou, Huacheng Square stands as the largest square in the city. Located in the core of the Zhujiang New Town with the city's new central axis running through it, the square is surrounded by 39 signature buildings, including the new Guangzhou Library, Guangzhou Opera House, Guangdong Museum,



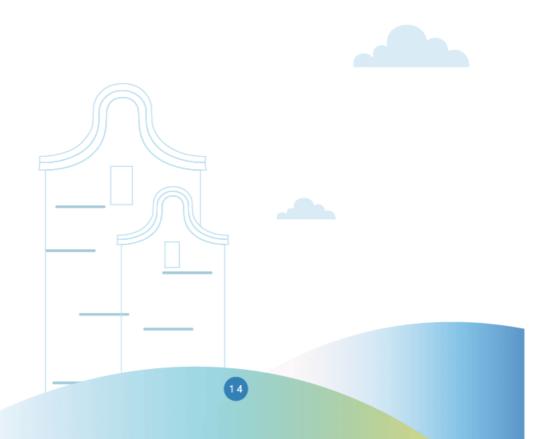
Guangzhou Second Children's Palace, Guangzhou International Financial Center, etc.

## Shawan Ancient Town

Address: No. 10, Daxiangchong Road, Shawan Town, Panyu District.

Established in the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), the Shawan Ancient Town features Lingnan cultural traditions with a history of more than 800 years. It is regarded as an outstanding symbol of Guangfu culture with rich resources in both tangible and intangible cultural heritage: a large number of ancient buildings such as ancestral halls and temples, as well as commercial and residential sites, are well preserved; Guangdong music, Piaose floating colors parade, dancing dragons and lions, orchids, local cuisine, and other folk arts and culture have flourished throughout history.





## **Cultural Venues**

## Guangdong Museum



Guangdong Museum is the only provincial-level comprehensive museum in Guangdong Province and a national first-class museum. With over 320,000 collections, the museum is the largest in South China with the most diversified categories. It is also an important window to showcase Guangdong's history and culture.





## ◆ Nanyue King Museum of the Western Han Dynasty

Address: No. 867, Jiefang North Road, Yuexiu District.



The tomb of Zhao Mo (Nanyue King Wen), the second king of Nanyue Kingdom, is the largest and only painted stone chamber tomb of Han Dynasty (202 B.C.-220 A.D.) discovered in the Lingnan region. More than 10,000 cultural relics were unearthed

from the tomb, among which the "Wen Di Xing Xi" (Nanyue King Wen) gold seal, jade horn-shaped cup and other cultural relics are of significantly historical, scientific and artistic value.

#### Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall



Address: No. 988, Jiefang North Road, Yuexiu District.

Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall was constructed with funds raised by the people of Guangzhou and overseas Chinese in memory of the great predecessor of the Chinese revolution for democracy. The building is shaped like an octagon pavilion which is majestic, solemn and rich in Chinese culture.



## Guangzhou Peasant Movement Institute



Address: No. 42, Zhongshan Fourth Road, Yuexiu District



Originally known as the Canton Panyu Confucius School, Guangzhou Peasant Movement Institute was built in 1370, the third year of the Hongwu reign of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). This magnificent ancient architectural complex faces south and is composed of Lingxing Gate, Panchi Arch Bridge,

Dacheng Gate, Dacheng Hall, Chongsheng Hall, and other grand buildings from south to north, with corridors on both sides.

## Memorial Hall of the Third National Congress of the **Communist Party of China**



The Memorial Hall consists of the History Exhibition Hall of the Third CPC National Congress, Spring Garden, the former site of the CPC Central Committee, the square of the site of the Third CPC National Congress, and the old No. 5 residential building.



## ◆ Bai'etan Greater Bay Area Art Center

Address: 60 meters south of the intersection of Luju Road and Changdi Street, Liwan District

Housing the Guangdong Museum of Art, the Guangdong Intangible Cultural Heritage Exhibition Center, and the Guangdong Literature Hall, the three-in-one Bai' etan Greater Bay Area Art Center is an important cultural landmark in Guangzhou and in Guangdong Province at large.



## New Guangzhou Museum of Art

Address: No. 198, Yiyuan Road, Haizhu District



The New Guangzhou Museum of Art is themed on "Time-honored Treasure, Lingnan Splendor", with an exhibition area of 19,000 square meters and a collection of more than 1,100 exquisite works. The renewed exhibition is composed of "Inheriting Classic Works", "Remembering Lingnan Tradition", "Artworks from Other Areas", and "Digital Empowerment", making the museum one of the largest professional art galleries in Asia.

## Libraries & Bookstores

## Guangzhou Library

Rated as a national first-class library, Guangzhou Library is divided into multiple special sections with a rich collection of books. It also hosts various cultural activities regularly.

- Address: No. 4, the Pearl River East Road, Tianhe District (100 meters walk from Entrance B of Grand Theater Metro Station)
- (L) Opening hours: 10:00 am 5:30 pm (closed on Wednesdays)

## ◆ Nansha IFC Sky Library

The library 100 meters up in the air provides you a 270-degree panoramic view of the river while reading.

- Address: 23rd floor corridor of Tower A, Yuexiu International Financial Center, Nansha District
- (L) Opening hours: 9:30 11:30 am, 2:30 4:30 pm (closed on Wednesdays)

## Baiyuan Mansion

Baiyuan Mansion is a retro-style building, and its first floor is the Guangdong Book Bar, a free library open to the public jointly built with the Guangdong Provincial Zhongshan Library.

- No. 12, Xuguyuan Road, Yuexiu District
- Opening hours: 10:00 am 8:00 pm (closed on Mondays)



## **Local Specialty Food**

Guangzhou, crowned as a gourmet destination, mainly provides Cantonese cuisine, which features fresh ingredients with light and authentic flavors.



Cantonese Morning Tea (dim sum)



Cantonese Desserts



Cantonese Soup



Cantonese Roast Meat



Cantonese Herbal Tea

**Recommendations:** Clay pot rice, steamed vermicelli roll, Cantonese poached chicken, shrimp dumplings

Guangzhou also provides an array of dining options as a coveted gourmet destination. You can refer to the Michelin Guide 2024 Guangzhou Rankings for more detailed information.



**Tips:** You can download Dianping, Meituan, and Ele.me apps to search for local food restaurants.

## Shopping & Entertainment

Guangzhou can be called a "shopping paradise" with four prosperous business districts. You can find well-known brands and luxury goods from all over the world in the city and also daily necessities and food from various countries in local supermarkets. Whether you are here to do business, travel or stay, the city can always meet your diverse shopping needs.

## **◆ Tianhe Road Business District**

The 4.5-square-kilometer Tianhe Road Business District is formed along the Tianhe Road, with a total length of about 2.8 kilometers. Its commercial area covers 2.4 million square meters with a daily passenger flow of about 1.5 million people. It houses 14 large-scale commercial complexes, 6 digital consumer product complexes, 3 underground commercial complexes, and 2 cultural and sports activity venues, including Grandview Mall, Taikoo Hui, Tee Mall, Ego Group, Tianhe Festival Walk, and Tianhe Sports Center, etc. Tianhe Road Business District has been successfully selected as a "Guangdong Provincial Characteristic Demonstration Pedestrian Street (Commercial District)" and was included in the first batch of national-level nighttime cultural and tourist consumption cluster areas in 2021.



<u>@</u>

Address: Along Tianhe Road, Tianhe District



Transportation: Take Metro Line 1 or Line 3 to Tiyu Xilu Station

## **Beijing Road Business District**



As one of the top ten famous pedestrian streets in China, the Beijing Road Business District spans about 1 kilometer along its main street with a walking route of 4.7 kilometers. It houses 1,057 brands, including 161 international brands, 589 domestic brands, 53 domestic and foreign chain brand stores, flagship stores, regional

first stores, and 65 innovative and pioneering stores. Some of the time-honored brands such as GrandBuy Department Store, Xin Da Xin Department Store, Chen Liji Pharmacy, and Xinhua Bookstore have achieved significant results after renovation and adjustment of design and layout.

In July 2021, Beijing Road was approved by the Ministry of Commerce as a national demonstration pedestrian street.



🙎 Address: No. 209, Gaodi Street, Beijing Subdistrict, Yuexiu District



Transportation: Take Metro Line 1 or Line 2 to Gongyuangian Station, and walk approximately 340 meters from Exit D; Take Metro Line 6 to Beijing Road Station and walk about 450 meters from Exit B.

#### **Wanbo Business District**



The Wanbo Business District is located in the north of Panyu District, and has built comprehensive commercial complexes such as Wanda Plaza, Tee Mall, TNE Grand City, and Wanbo Sihaicheng. Its daily passenger flow is about 300,000 people, with an annual average of over 100 million people. The business district has

held important events such as the International Gems & Jewelry Trends Conference of China and the Guangzhou International Food Festival. It is building the "Wanbo Intelligent Lighting System" to enhance the quality of the nighttime economy and create an experience scenario of large-scale nighttime pedestrian street.



Address: Hanxi Avenue, Panyu District



Transportation: Take Metro Line 7 or Line 18 to Nancun Wanbo Station and walk from Exit B

## **Yongqing Fang Business District**



Yongqing Fang is located in Xiguan, a famous traditional region with the most cultural heritage in Guangzhou. Built along Enning Road, the most beautiful arcade street in Guangzhou, Yongqing Fang connects the landmark Shangxiajiu commercial street in the east and the national scenic spot Shamian Island in the south. The historical and cultural

district is a vivid display of the profound Guangfu culture in the Cantonese region, showcasing signature cultural heritage like arcade streets, Xiguan mansions, Cantonese opera and music, Cantonese porcelain and embroidery, as well as local food and bronze art.

Yongqing Fang adopts micro renovation with meticulous "embroidery-like" efforts to form a pattern of Lingnan cultural neighborhood, featuring "Fang, Xiang, Li, and Nong" (connected by lanes and alleys). The project is an embodiment of "traditional city with new dynamism" by inheriting time-honored cultural traditions while embracing innovation and modern business formats. It has been built into a demonstration area for urban renewal in Guangzhou, successfully integrating historical cultural heritage with contemporary urban life.



🧕 Address: No. 99, Enning Road, Liwan District



Transportation: Take Metro Line 1 or Line 6 to Huangsha Station, and walk about 800 meters from Exit B

## Major Exhibitions in Guangzhou

Scan the code for more information about C&E information



# Falling in Love with Guangzhou

## Guangzhou A-Z

 Official Website of Guangzhou Municipal People's Government

A portal of government information and a window for the world to know more about Guangzhou (Scan to access the official website)



## ◆ Guangzhou Public Security Bureau Online Service Platform



You can scan to submit application for residence permits and visas.

If you need to consult on foreign-related legal affairs, scan to access the directory of foreign-related legal service institutions in Guangzhou and the directory of expertise of foreign-related lawyers in Guangzhou.



Scan to access the directory of foreign-related legal service institutions in Guangzhou

Scan to access the directory of expertise of foreign-related lawyers in Guangzhou



## ◆ Foreign Consulates General in Guangzhou



Scan to access the information of foreign consulates general in Guangzhou

## Hotlines

#### 12345

#### Mayor's Hotline

Call if you have any suggestions or complaints about government services, public transportation, medical services, etc.



#### 12366

#### Tax service hotline

Call to inquire about tax-related matters.

#### 12306

#### China Railway Service Hotline

Call to inquire about train schedules or ticket-related issues.

#### 12315

Call if you have any consumer complaints or disputes.



#### 960169

Guangzhou Multilingual Public Service Hotline provides free English, Japanese, and Korean public affairs consultation and translation services for foreign residents in Guangzhou, as well as emergency remote service support in French, German, Arabic, Spanish, and Portuguese. It provides around-the-clock Chinese and English language services, and the service hours for other languages are from 9 am to 9 pm.

## Emergency services

120

Medical Emergency Number. Provide on-site first aid, emergency treatment for traffic accidents, and nursing services.



119

Fire Emergency Number. Provide services in firefighting, disaster relief, emergency rescue, and other critical situations.



110

Police Emergency Number. Provide services related to public safety. You can call to report crimes and request police assistance. You can also seek help in finding lost items, handling traffic accidents, etc.



# **GUANGZHOU**





**Guangzhou Foreign Affairs Office** 



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