



Kunming

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Known as the City of Spring, Kunming, the provincial capital of Yunnan, is blessed with a mild climate especially favourable to plant cultivation, which becomes instantly evident in the city's vibrant flower markets. The pace of life here is slow: hardly anyone is seen in a hurry. The best thing to do is smell the roses, and wind down gently while exploring this very pleasing city and the breathtaking nature getaways in the environs.

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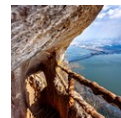


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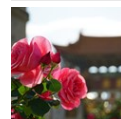
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THE CITY



Daniel Horcicka/Shutterstock.com

The Province of Yunnan, which sits right on the Vietnamese border, is not dissimilar from its southern neighbour in its wealth of flora and fauna, as well as its cultural diversity. Kunming, the provincial capital, a great base for exploring the region. The city itself though is unmistakably Chinese. Its main attractions are the vast Dianchi Lake and the famous Horti-Expo Garden. The Jinmabiji Square and the Kundu area have become the centre of the city. For shopping, the Zhengyi Road, Nanping Street, Xiao Ximen and Qingnian Road are the places to go.

Since Kunming sits at a height of 1891 metres, some visitors may experience altitude sickness. Sunscreen is also strongly advisable at these altitudes as well as an umbrella against the ever changing weather, plus an overcoat since it gets chilly when it rains.

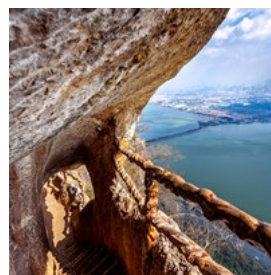
DO & SEE



TZIDO SUN/Shutterstock.com

The best way to experience the charm of Kunming is to simply wander around the constantly evolving city centre. Though modernising the city is an ongoing process, most residences in Kunming still retain the traditional style of architecture, quadrangle courtyards with sun-powered water heaters, and comfortable temperatures even without air conditioning, thanks to the landscape and climate. Flowers are abundant - at roadside stores, along green belts, and across tables of local eateries, giving the city a very pleasant vibe. Most sights outside the city centre are just a quick bus ride away, with enough to occupy the visitor for more than a couple of days.

Western Mountains (Xishan Mountain Park)



The Western Mountains (also referred to as "hills") make for an excellent day trip into nature. You can take a 20-minute cable car trip to the top; the 'Dragon Gate' carved into the side of the hill is an unmissable highlight, which also affords spectacular views of Kunming and Dianchi Lake. The tomb of Nie Er, the composer of the national anthem of China, rests on the hill.

Photo: Guitar photographer/Shutterstock.com

Address: South Dian-chi Lake, Xishan

Public Transport: Reach the Yunnan Ethnic Village by bus or metro, then walk around the lake to the foothill.

Opening hours: 08:00-18:00

Haigeng Park



Take a lakeside stroll along Lake Dianchi in Haigeng Park and take in the view of Kunming's "sleeping beauty" -

Western Mountainous - resting in the distance. The park is a popular public recreation area; you'll see locals fishing and barbecuing around here.

Photo: fantalee/Shutterstock.com

Address: North Dianchi Lake, Xishan

Daguan Park (Grandview Park)



Daguan Park is set to the west of Kunming, with Dianchi Lake close by. Its pavilion, with a history of more than 300 years, is a three-storey square

structure with flying eaves and golden lacquered ornaments. A historic couplet of 180 characters hangs down the pavilion, lauded as "number one couplet in the past and present". In winter, the Siberian sea gulls stop by on their migratory flights.

Photo: aphotostory/Shutterstock.com

Address: Daguan Road

Opening hours: 07:00-19:00

World Horticulture Expo Garden



The World Horti-Expo Garden is a botanical garden containing a grand exhibition of horticulture from all over the world. Situated in the northern suburbs of Kunming, it is also located close to the Golden Temple scenic spot at 4 km from downtown.

Photo: RoKraT/Shutterstock.com

Address: Bailong Road

Golden Temple Park



This park contains the most prestigious Taoist temple in Yunnan. The serene Golden Temple standing on the Mingfeng Mountain is the largest bronze temple in China. It was built by General Wu Sangui, and dates back to the early Qing Dynasty (17th century).

Rare plants and tea flowers flourish in this traditional Chinese-style garden. It has become a local traditional custom to enjoy the blooming flowers in the park every annual Temple Fair, which is held on the 9th day of every Lunar New Year.

Photo: Thitinan Ananchaphattana/Shutterstock.com

Address: Mingfeng Mountain, Chuanjin Road, Panlong

Stone Forest (Shilin)



The natural landscape of the stone forest is a spectacular limestone formation, which has been named a UNESCO World Natural Heritage

Site. Exposed to rain and winds and eroded by the elements, the limestone ranges were shaped by time into a vast forest of stone. The karst formations are believed to be 270 million years old and are located just under 100 km away from Kunming.

Photo: MOAimage/Shutterstock.com
Address: Stone Forest County

Green Lake Park



The Green Lake is known as the Jade of the city.

Two long dikes divide the lake into four parts.

Brightly painted pavilions, tree-lined walks

and exercising locals all add to the appeal of the park. During the winter months, black-headed gulls from Siberia migrate to Green Lake and entertain the crowds of visitors as they circle around and snap up bread fed to them by birdwatchers and visitors.

There used to be a military school in the neighbourhood, where the famous Chinese generals Zhu De and Ye Jianying were educated in the 1910s.

Photo: Noa_80/Shutterstock.com
Address: South Cuihu Road
Opening hours: 06:00-22:00

Yunnan Ethnic Village



This sprawling theme park showcases the cultural diversity of China's Yunnan Province.

Each of the 26 ethnic groups represented in the

park has a "station" of its own, often featuring typical residential homes, folk art (such as dance, song, or crafts), and offerings of

traditional food.

It can easily take a whole day to see everything, so we recommend you pick the villages you're particularly interested in beforehand. Maps are available at the entrance.

Photo: TZIDO SUN/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1310 Dianchi Rd, Xishan, Kunming
Phone: +86 871 6431 1255
Internet: www.travelchinaguide.com/attraction/yunnan/kunming/nationalities-village.htm

Yuantong Buddhist Temple

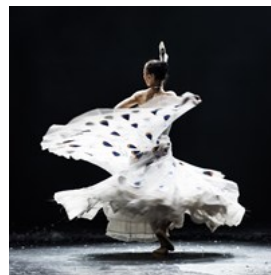


The splendid Yuantong Temple is the most important Buddhist site in the entire province, with a history of nearly 1200 years. Unlike at other

temples, you enter at an elevation and make your way down through tranquil temple grounds - these feature ornate pavilions and halls (the main hall maintains Yuan dynasty architecture), mountain caves and stone staircases. carved directly into the cliff sides.

Photo: Guitar photographer/Shutterstock.com
Address: Yuantong Jie, Kunming

Dynamic Yunnan Dance Show



This riveting folk dance show features several segments, each representing the culture and traditions of a different ethnic minority

inhabiting the province. Showmanship and choreography have received glowing reviews, and combine modern and traditional elements to create one compelling 90-minute performance that culminates in a stupendous "Peacock

Dance".

Photo: HuanPhoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: No.81 West Dongfeng Road.Wuhua District,
Kunming

Opening hours: Shows run every day at 20.00

Internet: www.yangliping.com

More Info: Yunnan Art Theatre

Nanping Pedestrian Street



Kunming's popular Nanping Street is a pedestrian-only commercial area packed with shops and restaurants, both local

and international. It has continued to be the city's liveliest stretch for decades, and remains busy with shoppers and diners even after sundown.

Photo: Maridav/Shutterstock.com

Address: 1 Dongfeng W Rd, Wuhua Qu, Kunming

DINING



The_Molostock/Shutterstock.com

Kunming is famous for Yunnan rice noodles (also known as "crossing-the-bridge noodles"), served separate from a piping-hot broth and a variety of add-ins, all of which are mixed together into the soup where they cook before the diners' very eyes.

Wild mushrooms are another local speciality, a

delicacy prized by the Chinese (the high season runs June through September).

Wild Mushroom Street (Guanxing Road)



The stretch of Guanxing Road is most active June through September, when local restaurants take full advantage of the high wild mushroom season.

Establishments that specialise exclusively in mushroom hot pot only open during those months, but some remain in operation through the year.

Photo: 54613/Shutterstock.com

Address: Guanxing Road, Guandu District

Jianxinyuan



This popular local chain serves one of Yunnan's most iconic dishes: the so-called "crossing-the-bridge noodles" (guòqiáo

mǐxiàn). True origins of the name are lost in time; legend has it, there was once a lady who discovered a way to keep noodles from getting soggy and broth from cooling down while she carried them across the bridge to her husband – the liquid was kept separate from noodles and insulated with chicken fat to stay hot longer.

Today, mixian remains one of the much-loved local specialities. Order at the counter, then proceed to the second floor to find a seat and hand your receipt over to a waiter. Your broth and noodles will arrive shortly, accompanied by a wide variety of add-ins you can mix into the soup. Everything gets cooked right then and there, and is ready to eat within a couple of

minutes.

Photo: peacefoo/Shutterstock.com

Address: 195 Baoshan St, Wuhua, Kunming

Hongdoyuan Restaurant



A wonderful find in busy Wenlin Street, Hongdoyuan is a traditional Chinese restaurant heralded as a local must-visit. Their speciality are the fried red beans, but the menu extends to include countless Yunnan and Northern Chinese dishes. Four menu items will make a feast for two.

Photo: ikate25/Shutterstock.com

Address: 142 Wenlin Street, Kunming

Opening hours: 11am-2pm, 5pm-9pm

Phone: +86 871 6539 2020

Fuzhaolou



Head here for a feast of Yunnan specialties - it's an upper-range establishment so expect prices higher than average, but the experience is worth it. It helps to have a Chinese speaker on your team, but use the menu illustrations in lieu of one.

Photo: Tanes Ngamsom/Shutterstock.com

Address: 98 Beijing Rd, Guandu, Kunming

More Info: Kunming Jin Jiang Hotel

Heavenly Manna



Heavenly Manna is a well-known local restaurant set steps away from Cuihu Lake. It's a tiny space, but the atmosphere is convivial, and the environment not at all intimidating even to those not yet entirely accustomed to eating out in China. The menu is clearly illustrated with photos and features a plethora of Yunnan specialities.

Photo: Macro-Man/Shutterstock.com

Address: Wenlin Jie, 74 Wenhua Xiang, Kunming

Shiping Huiguan



Whether it's the beautiful historic building the restaurant is housed in or the selection of mouthwatering Yunnan cuisine that are more of a draw, Shiping Huiguan is a great address for upscale dining in Kunming. You order through an iPad, where each dish is illustrated with the respective photo. Seating is available in the atmospheric courtyard.

Photo: The_Molostock/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cui Hu South Road ZhongHe Alley 24, Kunming

The Culture Alley (Wenhua Xiang)



The bustling Culture Alley in Kunming is a narrow street packed with bars and cafes. Eateries here serve a wide variety of Asian and international cuisines; its proximity to Yunnan University means local students frequent the area and keep it buzzing even after sundown.

Photo: Tom Wang/Shutterstock.com

Address: Culture Alley, Wenlin Street, Wuhua District

CAFES



L.F/Shutterstock.com

There is no shortage of cafes in Kunming, but something really worth making time for is a visit to a tea house for a sampling of celebrated Yunnan Pu'er.

Most cafés are open from around 09:00 to 02:00.

Salvador's Coffee House



The ice cream, excellent coffees, hot chocolates, western-style food and a nice environment that appeal to a foreign palate. They also offer many enticing options for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Photo: Gekko Gallery/Shutterstock.com

Address: NO.76, Wenhua Alley, Wenlin Street, Wuhua

Phone: +86 871 5363 525

Internet: www.salvadors.cn

Prague Cafe Coffee Hall



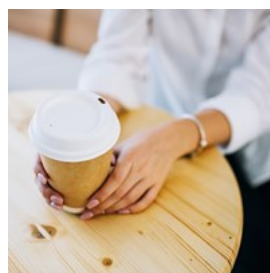
This longstanding Western-style cafe is an all-around great find: located in lively Wenlin Street, they serve exceptional coffee and a pleasant selection of both local and international food. The menu is in both English and Chinese, and features photos.

Photo: imtmphoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: 40 Wenlin St, Wuhua, Kunming

Phone: +86 871 6533 2764

Dawn Cafe



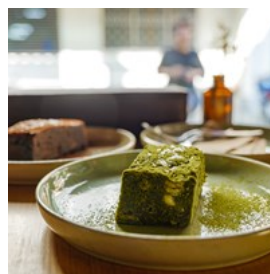
This sleek little cafe is almost Scandinavian in its minimalist design, and serves up a beautiful selection of cakes and pastries that are equal parts delicate and decadent. There's great coffee and tea, and staff speak English.

Photo: DreamsAlwaysComeTrue/Shutterstock.com

Address: 109 Beimen Street, Kunming

Phone: +86 189 8846 0203

Salvador's Loft

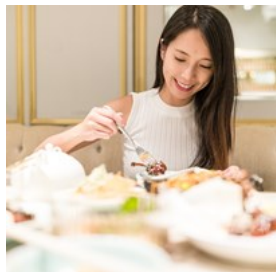


Following the resounding success of its namesake coffee house in the same street, Salvador's Loft recently opened its doors to multiple accolades from instant regulars. The cafe specialises in clean vegetarian fare, but serves up a wide selection ranging from tuna poke bowls to pasta and quesadillas. There's the usual coffee and tea, plus a selection of wine and even cocktails.

Photo: Peeradontax/Shutterstock.com

Address: 76 Wen Hua Xiang, Building 7, 201 Kunming
Phone: +86 0871 65315811
Internet: www.salvadors.cn/salvadors-loft.html

À table! French Bakery & Cafe



Led by a French expat, À table! is as authentic as it gets: Vincent - the chef - arrives in the shop early every morning to get the day's baguettes in the oven, and personally ensures the quality and freshness of all ingredients and final products. There is a wide variety of French cakes and pastries on offer, plus a selection of savoury meals.

Photo: [leungchopan/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/leungchopan)
Address: 23 Beimen Jie, Kunming
Phone: +86 136 7873 0152

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



[TORWAISTUDIO/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/TORWAISTUDIO)

Nightlife in Kunming begins just as the clock strikes nine. There aren't too many bars here, so those dotting the areas around Jinmabiji Square, Kundu and Green Lake tend to get rather busy. For a more subdued evening out, places along Wenlin Street and the Cultural Alley are a better bet. Most bars and clubs are open from 20.00 to 02:00.

O'Reilly's Irish Pub



For uncomplicated Western food, sports broadcasts, a bit of pool and the quintessential ice-cold Guinness, O'Reilly's is the place to be. Although admittedly more popular with expats than tourists, O'Reilly's is a pleasant pub to hang out, and the location at 52 Dongfeng Road also features a beer garden.

Photo: [TORWAISTUDIO/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/TORWAISTUDIO)
Address: 13 Beichen Pedestrian Street
Phone: +86 871 5615 661

Paulaner Brauhaus



Some might argue a Bavarian beer hall may not be the quintessential Yunnan experience, but the Paulaner Bräuhaus Kunming has a lot going for it: there's the German beer, of course, plus a very welcoming English-speaking staff and live band playing on some nights. Food gets mixed reviews, but has reportedly become increasingly close to the German original in the past months.

Photo: [Vershinin89/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/Vershinin89)
Address: 128 Shulin Street, Kunming
Opening hours: 11am-01am
Phone: +86 871 6589 9199
Internet: www.paulaner-brauhaus-kunming.com/en

Humdinger Brewpub



Humdinger is one of those rare finds that has it all: it's a microbrew pub, so craft brews never stop flowing, plus they serve western-style dishes (many cooked wood-fired) and host live

music shows on some nights. The place stays busy until late.

Photo: TrinsetWRP/Shutterstock.com
Address: 111 Zhengyi Rd, Wuhua Qu, Kunming
Phone: +86 138 8853 3733
Internet: www.humdingerpub.com/welcome

The Hump Rooftop Terrace



Perched on top of (arguably) Kunming's best hostel is a rooftop terrace that draws in locals and travellers with its affordable drinks, relaxed vibes, and sweeping views of Kunming from above.

Photo: bbernard/Shutterstock.com
Address: JB2-2 Jinmabiji Square, Jinbi Road, Xishan District, Kunming

Dynamic Yunnan Dance Show



This riveting folk dance show features several segments, each representing the culture and traditions of a different ethnic minority inhabiting the province. Showmanship and choreography have received glowing reviews, and combine modern and traditional elements to create one compelling 90-minute performance that culminates in a stupendous "Peacock Dance".

Photo: HuanPhoto/Shutterstock.com
Address: No.81 West Dongfeng Road, Wuhua District, Kunming
Opening hours: Shows run every day at 20.00
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More Info: Yunnan Art Theatre

The Culture Alley (Wenhua Xiang)



The bustling Culture Alley in Kunming is a narrow street packed with bars and cafes. Eateries here serve a wide variety of Asian and international cuisines; its proximity to Yunnan University means local students frequent the area and keep it buzzing even after sundown.

Photo: Tom Wang/Shutterstock.com
Address: Culture Alley, Wenlin Street, Wuhua District

SHOPPING



arm315/Shutterstock.com

Yunnan's ethnic minority groups each have honed crafts of their own, and products such as the Dai brocade or bronze pieces make for excellent gifts to bring back home. Pu'er tea, which originates from the province, is another great buy.

Dounan Flower Market



As the sun rises every morning, flowers wet with dewdrops are already on sale at this flower wholesale market. Various common and rare flowers can be found here, from tropical butterfly orchids to flaming gerberas. Flowers are normally sold in bulk, but the market is worth a

brows if only for the sheer spectacle.

Photo: Jarmo Piironen/Shutterstock.com
Address: Dounan Village, Chenggong County

Nanping Pedestrian Street



Kunming's popular Nanping Street is a pedestrian-only commercial area packed with shops and restaurants, both local

and international. It has continued to be the city's liveliest stretch for decades, and remains busy with shoppers and diners even after sundown.

Photo: Maridav/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1 Dongfeng W Rd, Wuhua Qu, Kunming

Zhengyi Road Pedestrian Street



Another popular commercial area is that of Zhengyi Road, a stone's throw away from Nanping Pedestrian Street. If you continue westward, you'll

come upon one of Kunming's popular Bird and Flower Markets (Jingxing) selling songbirds, fish, and folk crafts.

Photo: Urban Napflin/Shutterstock.com
Address: Zhengyi Road, Kunming
More Info: Opposite Jinmabiji Square

Yunnan Tea Wholesale Market



One of the largest wholesale tea markets in Yunnan features countless tea vendors and stalls selling all things tea, from brewing

equipment to artisan porcelain tea sets. Pu'er

hails from Yunnan, so there are plenty of varieties on offer. Apart from the native brews, it also sells the vast array of Chinese teas from other provinces.

Mind that making yourself understood without at least some knowledge of Chinese will be difficult, so it's advisable to have a Chinese speaker on your team, or have your desired tea varieties all written down as you request them. Do not settle for the first price that's been announced.

Photo: Chubykin Arkady/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jinshi Rd, Xiaozhuang Village, Panlong, Kunming

The Culture Alley (Wenhua Xiang)



The bustling Culture Alley in Kunming is a narrow street packed with bars, cafes and boutiques, with many stand-alone stores good for memorable souvenirs.

Photo: Tom Wang/Shutterstock.com
Address: Culture Alley, Wenlin Street, Wuhua District

TOURIST INFORMATION



Jesse33/Shutterstock.com

Airport



The Kunming Changshui International Airport is the primary airport serving Kunming. It is located in the Changshui village about 24.5 km (15.2 miles) northeast of Kunming city centre. Metro line 6 links the airport with the city centre, but other means of transportation, such as buses and, of course, taxis, are also readily available.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Kunming Changshui International Airport, Kunming
Internet: www.kunming-airport.com

Public Transport



The easiest way to get around by public transport is via the metro; Government Square station (or Dongfeng Guangchang) is a central reference point.

The public bus system may be a little difficult for those who don't speak Chinese, though route

maps are available. Most buses run between 06:00 and 22:00. Ticket vending machines are used on most buses.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Taxi



If you can, install the ride hailing app called Didi to easily hail rides with fares clearly indicated prior to boarding. You'll need a Chinese phone number in order to install and use the app.

Taxis can also be hailed around the city: avoid the so-called "black" taxis (unlicensed) and only agree to the ride if metre is used. In some cases, drivers may refuse to use the metre (especially for long distance trips or the airport) - make sure to agree on the price before departure if you choose to ride. It's good to have the name of your destination in Chinese writing.

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Medical



Richland International Hospital has English-speaking doctors and translators on staff.

Photo: Ilicon/Shutterstock.com

Address: Beijing Lu Extension, Shangdu Guoji Xiaoku, Kunming

Pharmacy



Watsons has several locations across Kunming.

Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: 88 Nan Ping Jie, Wuhua, Kunming

Telephone



Country code: +86 Area code: 0871

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



220 V/50 Hz

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

4,657,000 (2022)

Currency

1 RMB = 10 jiao

Opening hours

Office hours are 8:30am–5:30pm or 6pm from Monday to Friday. Banks are open from 09am–5pm on weekdays and to 4pm on weekends. Most malls and supermarkets close at 10pm. Cafés and bars often remain open until 2am.

Newspapers

www.gokunming.com/en/

Emergency numbers

Police: 110

Ambulance: 120

Fire: 119