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Introduction:

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Jin Li Street -- The First Street of the Shu Kingdom











Dating back to the Qin Dynasty (221BC-206BC), Jinli Street in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, was in ancient times one of the busiest of commercial boulevards of the Kingdom of Shu, during the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280). It is thus known as the "First Street of the Shu Kingdom."

At the time of the Three Kingdoms period, the production of the famous Shu brocade (a rich silk fabric with raised patterns in gold and silver) was centralized at the southern bank of the Jinjiang River in Chengdu, adjacent to the historical Temple of Marquis Wu. The area was originally known as Jinguan or Jinli, and during the later Tang and Song Dynasties, Jinli became another name for the city of Chengdu.

Chengdu was the capital city of the Kingdom of Shu (221-263). Due largely to the leadership of Zhuge Liang (an outstanding politician and strategist) and other personages of the Kingdom of Shu, the "Sanguo" (Three Kingdoms) culture took strong root here. And here still exists some of the richest of the remains of the Three Kingdoms Period.



The geography of the area is relatively simple. Adjacent to Jinli Street is the ancient Temple of Marquis Wu, while the Jinjiang River lies to the north

and the Rainbow Bridge to the east. By combining the spirits and styles of the Qin, Han, Ming and Qing Dynasties and the Three Kingdoms period, along with the folk customs of western Sichuan, Jinli has enriched the "Sanguo" culture.

Renovation of the street was completed at the end of 2004. Visitors from all over China and abroad gathered here in this ancient street to relax, take in the surroundings, and perhaps taste some of the local specialties. It is said that citizens of Chengdu are particularly fond of dining and socializing, and perhaps this is what helps to create the city's leisurely ambience. Chengdu has been newly designated as one of the ten most livable cities in China.



Wangjiang (in Chinese, overlooking the river) Tower Park



Located on the south bank of Jinjiang River, Chengdu, Wangjiang (in Chinese, overlooking the river)

Tower Park is one of three famous cultural relics in Chengdu, along with Wuhou Memorial Temple
and the Thatched Cottage of Du Fu. While Wuhou Temple honors the legendary minister of Shu,

Zhuge Liang, and Du Fu Cottage honors the Sage of Poetry, Wangjiang Tower is dedicated to a

woman, Xue Tao, a poet in the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Since in the past women lacked social
status, the story of Xue Tao is all the more fascinating.

Xue Tao was born in a turbulent society so her father named her "tao" wave in Chinese. She led a

hard life after her father's death, eventually becoming a singer. She was versatile and beautiful.

History records that she wrote 500 poems and that her contemporaries greatly admired her.

Bamboos will get your attention as you enter the park. Xue Tao loved bamboo; over 150 kinds of bamboos from home and abroad grow here in her

honor. Wangjiang Tower Park with its elegant garden of bamboo is the finest in Chengdu. Built in 1889, Wangjiang Tower has become a Chengdu landmark. Legend has it that the sponsor wanted the building to conform to fengshui to enhance literate luck. It was only after the tower was completed that the sponsor revealed in two poems that his true motivation was to honor Xue Mao. The 39-meter- (128-foot-) high Wangjiang Tower is the greatest building in the park. It is also called Chongli (grand and beautiful in Chinese) Tower, derived from an ancient article describing Chengdu as beautiful and grand. Of the four stories of the tower, the upper two are octagonal while the lower two are square with every eave layer exquisitely decorated with sculptures.



Other memorial buildings like Yinshi (poems-chanting) Building, Wuyunxian (five fairy clouds) Hall, Quanxiang (fragrance of spring) Pavilion, Pipa (loquat) Alley, Qingwan (refreshing and pretty) House, and Huanjian (paper-washing) Pavilion are elegantly arranged, featuring Sichuan-style gardens.



Xue Tao Well should not be missed. Not only a poet and beauty, Xue Tao was a clever inventor inventing Xue Tao Paper with water from the well. Superior to the yellow and coarse paper used at that time, her Xue Tao Paper was colorful and delicate.

The white marble statue of Xue Tao deep in the bamboos is poetry in stone.

Visitors can enjoy tea made from Xue Tao Well water, read poems and couplets left by celebrities, and become intoxicated by the ethereal surrounding.

Wuhou (Martial Marquis) Memorial Temple



Wuhou (Martial Marquis) Memorial Temple is dedicated to Zhuge Liang, the Martial Marquis of Shu in the Three Kingdoms.

Zhuge Liang was the personification of noble character and intelligence. Memorial temples erected in many places after his death include a famous one in Chendu.

Located in the south suburb of Chengdu, the temple covers 37,000 square meters (398,277 square feet). The date of its establishment is unclear, only that it was built next to the temple

of Liu Bei, , the emperor of Shu. It was combined with the Temple of Liu Bei at the beginning of the Ming Dynasty; consequently, the entrance plaque reads 'Zhaolie Temple of Han Dynasty' (Zhaolie is the posthumous title of Liu Bei). The current temple was rebuilt in 1672. Surrounded by old cypresses and classical red walls, the temple evokes nostalgia.

The main body of the temple is divided into five sections, the Gate, the second Gate, the Hall of Liu Bei, the corridor, and the Hall of Zhuge Liang, all of which run south to north. Inside, clay sculptures of Shu Emperor and ministers stand together, making them a special feature.

The most valuable cultural relic within the temple is the stele set up in 809. This huge stele 367-centimeter (144-inch) high and 95-centimeter (37-inch) wide is called the Triple-Success Stele. The



three successes are: an article written by Pei Du, a famous minister of the Tang Dynasty who served four emperors in succession, calligraphy



by Liu Gongquan, one of the most brilliant calligraphers in Chinese history, and a statement about the morality and achievements of Zhuge Liang.

His great personality, his dedicated service to others, and his outstanding intelligence place Zhuge Liang above all emperors, generals, and ministers in history. A visit to the temple illuminates his status with the Chinese people.

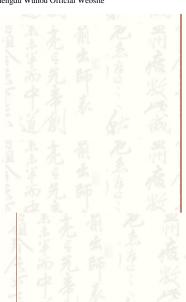
Tourism

Within Wuhou District, Chengdu Wuhou Temple, the sacred place of the Three Kingdoms culture relics, is the most renowned memorial place of Zhuge Liang and Liu Bei all over the country, the only place for sacrificing the monarch and his subject together, and the most influential museum of the Three Kingdom relics. It is among the first to be approved as the National Point Culture Protection Units. Wuhou Temple mainly consists with Hui Mausoleum, Zhaolie Temple of Han Dynasty, and the Temple of Wuhou. In the temple, the environment is quiet and elegant with ancient Cypresses and majestic palaces.

The Park of Wangjiang Tower is one of the ten scenic spots in Chengdu. Within the park, the main constructions are Congli Attic, XueTao Well, Zuojin Tower, Huangjian Pavilion, Five Cloud Immortal Hall, Liu Bei Pool, and Fragrant Spring Pavilion. All of them were built successively in Ming and Qing Dynasty in order to memorize the famous woman poet XueTao in Tang Dynasty. The park is also the one with the most kinds of bamboos all over the country. The species amount to one hundred and eighty. Therefore, the park is also named the "Park of Bamboos".

The Folk Customs Park of Old Chengdu is the first theme park utilizing the space under the flyover in Chengdu or even all over the country. The Folk Customs Park of Old Chengdu is mainly divided into six parts such as the culture and art relics of ancient bridge and street in old Chengdu, the recreational part with status which reflecting folk customs and ancient culture in old Chengdu. This park still has the signs imitating that of old Chengdu such as "Willow Street" and "Lotus Street". The statuses relief sculptures all reflect the then folk custom and culture of old Chengdu such as Rolling the Iron Ring, Playing Elastic Shooting, and so on. Wanli Bridge and Black Stone Bridge reflect the views of old Chengdu.

The Jinli Street is renowned as Chengdu version of "Bianliang's Pure Brightness Festival Fair". This street reflects the folk customs of old



mansions, ancient inns, old shops, and Wannian Platform. The black tiles and black stone road seems to lead people back thousands of yearly ago. The ancient Shu culture such as Shu Brocade and the tea, wine, dishes, operas which deeply branded by the feature of Sichuan Province blow the visitors like fresh wind. The visitor could enjoy all the original Sichuan particularities within only three hundred and fifty meters.

Additionally, Wuhou District has Jiang'an Ecological Park which embodies the aquatic ecological culture of Jiang'an River and the folk culture of west Sichuan Province, Yongkang Forest Park which embodies the aquatic culture of inland river and damp soil, the Shu culture relics of Three Kingdoms, the typical residence of West Sichuan Province, and the folk cultures, the Pure River Park which outstandingly embodies the combination of modern and ancient gardening, Wuhou Square, the place for recreation and leisure, the little Park of Gaoshengqiao, and the recreational place: Moonlit Night On The Spring River.

