

# Sichuan

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

## 四川省 Sìchuān Shěng

Abbreviations: 川/蜀 (Pinyin: Chūān or Shǔ )



Short for 川峡四路 chū xiá sì lù

literally "The four circuits

### Origin of name

of rivers-and-gorges",

referring to the four circuits during the Song Dynasty.

**Administration type** Province

### Capital

Chengdu

(and largest city)

**CPC Ctte Secretary** **Zhang Xuezhong**

**Governor** **Zhang Zhongwei**

**Area** 485,000 km<sup>2</sup> (5th)

<b><u>Population</u></b> (2004)	87,250,000 ( <u>3rd</u> )
- <u>Density</u>	180/km <sup>2</sup> ( <u>22nd</u> )
<b><u>GDP</u></b> (2004)	<u>CNY</u> 655.6 billion ( <u>9th</u> )
- per capita	<u>CNY</u> 7510 ( <u>26th</u> )
<b><u>HDI</u></b> (2005)	0.728 ( <b>medium</b> ) ( <u>24th</u> )
	<u>Han</u> - 95%
	<u>Yi</u> - 2.6%
<b><u>Major nationalities</u></b>	<u>Tibetan</u> - 1.5%
	<u>Qiang</u> - 0.4%
<b><u>Prefecture-level</u></b>	21 divisions
<b><u>County-level</u></b>	181 divisions
<b><u>Township-level</u></b> <sup>†</sup>	5011 divisions
<b><u>ISO 3166-2</u></b>	CN-51

### Official website

<http://www.sichuan.gov.cn/>

(Simplified Chinese)

### Source for population and GDP data:

《中国统计年鉴—2005》 *China Statistical Yearbook 2005*

ISBN 7503747382

### Source for nationalities data:

《2000年人口普查中国民族人口资料》 *Tabulation on nationalities of 2000 population census of China*

ISBN 7105054255



Shu's existence was unknown until an archaeological discovery in [1986](#) at a small village named [Sanxingdui](#) (三星堆 S n X ng Du ) in Guanghan [County](#). Believed to be an ancient city of the Shu Kingdom, the excavations yielded invaluable archaeological information.

Although the [Qin Dynasty](#) came to destroy the civilizations of Shu and Ba, the culture of Shu and Ba was preserved and inherited by people in Sichuan until today. The Qin government also accelerated the technological and agricultural advancements of Sichuan comparable to that of the [Huang He](#) (Yellow River) Valley. The [Dujiangyan Irrigation System](#), built in [3rd century BC](#) under the inspection of [Li Bing](#), was the symbol of modernization of that period. Composed of a series of [dams](#), it redirected the flow of [Min Jiang](#), a major [tributary](#) of [Yangtze River](#), to fields and relieved the damage of seasonal floods. The construction and various other projects greatly increased the harvest of the area which thus became the main source of provision and men for Qin's unification of China.

Various ores were abundant. Adding to its significance, the area was also on the trade route from Huang He Valley to foreign countries of the southwest, especially [India](#).

Military importance matches the commercial and agricultural values. As the area is actually a basin and is surrounded by the [Himalayas](#) to the west, the [Qinling Range](#) to the north, and mountainous areas of [Yunnan](#) to the south, its climate is often heavily foggy. Since the Yangtze flows through the basin and thus is upstream to areas of eastern China, navies could be easily sailed downstream. Therefore the area was bases of numerous ambitious militarists and refuges of Chinese governments throughout history. A few independent regimes were founded; the most famous was [Shu Han](#) of the [Three Kingdoms](#). The [Jin Dynasty](#) first conquered Shu Han on its path of unification. During the [Tang Dynasty](#), it was a battlefield against [Tibet](#).

The [Southern Song Dynasty](#) established coordinated defense against the Mongolian [Yuan Dynasty](#) in Sichuan and [Xiangyang](#). The line of defence was finally broken through after the first use of [firearms](#) in history during the six-year [siege of Xiangyang](#), which ended in 1273. A plague in the [12th century](#) depopulated the basin, after which it was repopulated by settlers from northern China. Foggy climate hindered the accuracy of

[Japanese](#) bombing of the basin and the [Chongqing](#) city where the capital of [Republic of China](#) had moved to during [World War II](#).

Sichuan's borders have remained relatively constant for the past 500 years. This changed in [1997](#) when the city of Chongqing as well as the surrounding towns of [Fuling](#) and [Wanxian](#) were formed into the new [Chongqing Municipality](#). The new municipality was formed to spearhead China's effort to develop its western regions as well as to coordinate the resettlement of refugees from the [Three Gorges Dam](#) project.

## Subdivisions

---

The current immediate administrative divisions of Sichuan consist of eighteen [prefecture-level cities](#) and three [autonomous prefectures](#):

- [Chengdu](#) (成都)
- [Mianyang](#) (绵阳)
- [Deyang](#) (德阳)
- [Yibin](#) (宜宾)
- [Panzhihua](#) (攀枝花)
- [Leshan](#) (乐山)
- [Nanchong](#) (南充)
- [Zigong](#) (自贡)
- [Luzhou](#) (泸州)
- [Neijiang](#) (内江)
- [Guangyuan](#) (广元)
- [Suining](#) (遂宁)
- [Ziyang](#) (资阳)

- [Guang'an](#) (广安)
- [Ya'an](#) (雅安)
- [Meishan](#) (眉山)
- [Dazhou](#) (达州)
- [Bazhong](#) (巴中)
- [Aba Tibetan Qiang Autonomous Prefecture](#) (阿坝藏族羌族自治州)
- [Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture](#) (甘孜藏族自治州)
- [Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture](#) (凉山彝族自治州)

## Geography

---

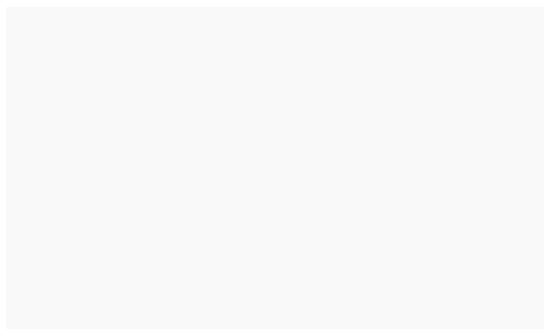
The area lies in the [Sichuan basin](#) and is surrounded by the [Himalaya](#) (喜马拉雅山脉) to the west, [Qinling](#) (秦岭) range to the north, and mountainous areas of [Yunnan](#) to the south. The [Yangtze River](#) flows through the basin and thus is upstream to areas of eastern China. The [Minjiang River](#), in central Sichuan is a tributary of the upper Yangtze River, which it joins at Yibin.

The climate is often heavily foggy. Several cities are quite polluted and seldom get sunny days.

Bordering provinces: [Chongqing Municipality](#), [Tibetan Autonomous Region](#), [Qinghai](#), [Gansu](#), [Shaanxi](#), [Guizhou](#) and [Yunnan](#).

## Economy

---





The capital of Sichuan, [Chengdu](#).

Sichuan has been historically known as the "Province of Abundance". It is one of the major agricultural production bases of China. Grain, including rice and wheat, is the major product with output that ranked first in China in 1999. Commercial crops include citrus fruits, sugar canes, sweet potatoes, peaches and rapeseeds. Sichuan also had the largest output of pig meat among all the provinces and the second largest output of silkworm cocoons in China in 1999. Sichuan is rich in mineral resources. It has more than 132 kinds of proven underground mineral resources of which reserves of 11 kinds including vanadium, titanium, and lithium are the largest in China. The [Panxi](#) region alone possesses 13.3% of the reserves of iron, 93% of titanium, 69% of vanadium, 83% of cobalt of the whole country. <sup>[1]</sup>

Sichuan is one of the major industrial bases of China. In addition to heavy industries such as coal, energy, iron and steel industry, the province has established a light manufacturing sector comprising building materials, wood processing, food and silk processing. [Chengdu](#) and [Mianyang](#) are the production bases for textiles and electronics products. [Deyang](#), [Panzhuhua](#), and [Yibin](#) are the production bases for machinery, metallurgy industries, and wine respectively. The wine production of Sichuan accounted for 21.9% of the country's total production in 2000. Great strides have been achieved in accelerating the development of Sichuan into a modern hi-tech industrial base by encouraging both domestic and foreign investments in electronics and information technology (such as software), machinery and metallurgy (including automobiles), hydropower, pharmaceutical, food and beverage industries. The auto industry is important and a key sector of the machinery industry in Sichuan. Most of the auto manufacturing companies are located in Chengdu, Mianyang, [Nanchong](#), and [Luzhou](#)

<sup>[2]</sup>. Other important industries in Sichuan include [aerospace](#) and defense (military) industries. A number of China's rockets ([Long March rockets](#)) and [satellites](#) has been launched from the [Xichang Satellite Launch Center](#), located in the city of [Xichang](#). Sichuan's beautiful landscapes and rich historical relics have also made the province into a major center for tourism.

The [Three Gorges Dam](#), the largest [dam](#) ever constructed, is being built on the [Yangtze River](#) in nearby [Hubei](#) province to control flooding in the Sichuan Basin, neighboring [Yunnan](#) province, and downstream. The plan is hailed by some as a Chinese effort to shift towards alternate energy sources and to further develop its industrial and commercial bases but others have criticised it for its potential harmful effects, such as massive resettlement of refugees, loss of archeological sites, and ecological damage.

Sichuan's nominal GDP for [2004](#) was 656 billion yuan (US\$81.3 billion), equivalent to 6,270 RMB (US\$757) per capita. In 2005, the per capita net income of rural residents reached 2,800 yuan (US\$350), up 8.6% year-on-year. The per capita [disposable income](#) of the urbanites averaged 8,386 yuan (US\$1,048), up 8.8% year-on-year. <sup>[3]</sup>

## Demographics

---

The majority of population is [Han Chinese](#), who are found scattered throughout the province. Significant minorities of [Tibetans](#), [Yi](#), [Qiang](#) and [Naxi](#) reside in the western portion, which is a part of historic [Tibet's Kham](#) region.

## Culture

---

- [Sichuan cuisine](#)
- [Music of Sichuan](#)

The [Li Bai](#) Memorial, located at his birthplace, Zhongba Town of northern [Jiangyou County](#) in Sichuan Province, is a museum in memory of Li Bai, a Chinese poet in the Tang Dynasty (618-907). It was prepared in 1962 on the occasion of 1,200th anniversary of his death, completed in 1981 and opened to the public in October 1982.



The memorial is built in the style of the classic garden of the Tang Dynasty.

## Languages

Most dialects of the [Chinese language](#) spoken in Sichuan, including the **Chengdu dialect** of the provincial capital, belong to the [southwestern](#) subdivision of the [Mandarin](#) group, and are therefore very similar to the dialects of neighbouring [Yunnan](#) and [Guizhou](#) provinces as well as [Chongqing Municipality](#). Typical features shared by many southwestern Mandarin dialects include the merger of the [retroflex consonants](#) /t̚ t̚•• •/ into the [alveolar consonants](#) /ts ts• s/, the merger of /n/ and /l/, as well as the merger of /i• / into / n in/.

The prefectures of [Garzê](#) and [Aba](#) in western Sichuan are populated predominantly by [Tibetans](#), who speak the [Kham](#) and **Amdo** dialects of [Tibetan](#). The [Qiang](#) and other related ethnicities speak the [Qiangic languages](#), also part of the [Tibeto-Burman languages](#). The [Yi](#) of [Liangshan](#) prefecture in southern Sichuan speak the [Yi language](#), which is more closely related to [Burmese](#); Yi is written using the [Yi script](#), a [syllabary](#) standardized in [1974](#).

## Colleges and universities

- [Southwestern University of Finance and Economics](#) (Chengdu)
- [Sichuan University](#) (Chengdu)
- [Southwest Jiaotong University](#) (Chengdu)
- [University of Electronic Science and Technology of China](#) (Chengdu)
- **Southwest University of Science and Technology** (Mianyang)

## Tourism

---

[UNESCO World Heritage Sites](#):

- [Dazu Rock Carvings](#), listed as property of the [Chongqing](#) municipality
- [Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area](#)
- [Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area](#)
- [Mount Emei Scenic Area](#), including [Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area](#)
- [Mount Qincheng and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System](#)
- [Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries](#)

## Sports

---

Professional sports teams in Sichuan include:

- [Chinese Basketball Association](#)
  - None
- [Chinese Football Association Jia League](#)
  - [Chengdu Wuniu](#)
- [Chinese Football Association Super League](#)
  - [Sichuan Guancheng](#)

## See also

---

- [Eight Immortals from Sichuan](#)

## External links

---



Wikimedia Commons has media related to:

## *Sichuan*

- [中国四川 Sichuan Provincial Government](#)
- [Large map of Sichuan](#)
- [http://www.chinaculture.org/gb/en\\_museum/2003-09/24/content\\_30239.htm](http://www.chinaculture.org/gb/en_museum/2003-09/24/content_30239.htm) (Link to the Li Bai Museum at Zhongba Town of northern Jiangyou County.)

[hide]

## Province-level divisions administered by the People's Republic of China (PRC)

[Anhui](#) · [Fujian](#) · [Gansu](#) · [Guangdong](#) ·

[Guizhou](#) · [Hainan](#) · [Hebei](#) ·

[Heilongjiang](#) · [Henan](#) · [Hubei](#) · [Hunan](#) ·

### Provinces

[Jiangsu](#) · [Jiangxi](#) · [Jilin](#) · [Liaoning](#) ·

[Qinghai](#) · [Shaanxi](#) · [Shandong](#) ·

[Shanxi](#) · **Sichuan** · [Taiwan](#)<sup>1</sup> · [Yunnan](#) ·

[Zhejiang](#)



[Guangxi](#) · [Inner Mongolia](#) · [Ningxia](#) ·

### Autonomous regions

[Tibet \(Xizang\)](#) · [Xinjiang](#)

[Beijing](#) · [Chongqing](#) · [Shanghai](#) ·

### Municipalities

[Tianjin](#)

Special administrative regions [Hong Kong](#) · [Macau](#)

<sup>1</sup> Claimed by the PRC, but currently ruled by the [Republic of China \("Taiwan"\)](#). See also [Political status of Taiwan](#).

## Prefecture-level divisions of Sichuan

**Sub-provincial cities:** [Chengdu](#)

**Prefecture-level cities:** [Bazhong](#) | [Dazhou](#) | [Deyang](#) | [Guang'an](#) | [Guangyuan](#) | [Leshan](#) | [Luzhou](#) |

[Meishan](#)

[Mianyang](#) | [Nanchong](#) | [Neijiang](#) | [Panzhihua](#) | [Suining](#) | [Ya'an](#) | [Yibin](#) |

[Zigong](#) | [Ziyang](#)

**Autonomous prefectures:** [Ngawa](#) | [Garzê](#) | [Liangshan](#)

## List of Sichuan County-level divisions

**Categories:** [Sichuan](#) | [Provinces of the People's Republic of China](#)

---

This page was last modified 07:18, 28 January 2007. All text is available under the terms of the [GNU](#)

[Free Documentation License](#). (See [Copyrights](#) for details.)

Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a US-registered [501\(c\)\(3\)](#)

[tax-deductible nonprofit charity](#).

---