

Overview of Chongqing

Nature & Geography

Chongqing is situated at 105°17'-110°11' E and 28°10'-32°13' N, at the transitional area between the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and the plain on the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River in the sub-tropical climate zone swept by the moist monsoon. The average annual temperature is around 18°C, with the lowest winter temperature averaging between 6°C and 8°C and summer temperature averaging between 27°C and 29°C. It has a total annual sunshine time of 1,000 to 1,200 hours. It has mild winter, hot summers, long frost-free periods and ample rain, as well as warm, wet and cloudy days, with rain and heat occurring in the same season. It has an annual rainfall of 1,000-1,400 mm. It often rains at night in late spring and early summer, and thus the city is famous for its "night rain in the Ba Mountains". The land under Chongqing's jurisdiction is 470 kilometers from east to west, and 450 kilometers from north to south. It borders on Hubei and Hunan provinces in the east, Guizhou in the south, Sichuan in the west and north and Shaanxi Province at its northeast corner.

Chongqing covers a large area crisscrossed by rivers and mountains. The Daba Mountains stand in the north, the Wushan Mountains in the east, the Wuling Mountains in the southeast and the Dalou Mountains in the south. The whole area slopes down from north and south towards the Yangtze valley, with sharp rises and falls. The area is featured by mountain and hills, with large sloping areas at different heights. Typical karst landscape is common in this area, and stone forests, forests of peaks, limestone caves and valleys can be found in many places. The Yangtze River runs through the whole area from west to east, covering a course of 665 kilometers, cutting through the Wushan Mountains at three places and forming the well-known Three Gorges: the Qutang, the Wuxia and the Xiling gorges. Coming from northwest and running through "the Jialing Lesser Three Gorges" of Libi, Wentang and Guanyin, the Jialing River joins the Yangtze in Chongqing.

The central urban area of Chongqing, or Chongqing proper, is a beautiful city with its unique features. Built on mountains and embraced by the Yangtze and Jialing rivers, it is known as a "mountain city" and a "city on rivers". The night scene of the city is very charming, with millions of lights and their reflection on the rivers, forming another Milky Way. With its special topographical features, Chongqing has the unique magnificent scenery of mountain, rivers, forests, springs, waterfalls, gorges and caves. The best natural scenery is found in the Yangtze Three Gorges. High cliffs standing face to face on either side of the Yangtze, forming a natural gallery of arts. Each of the three gorges has its special charm: the Qutang Gorge is imposing and magnificent, the Wuxia Gorge elegant and graceful, and the Xiling Gorge precipitous and perilous. There are the even more beautiful Lesser Three Gorges on the Daning River and the Lesser Lesser Three Gorges on the Madu River. Li Bai (701-762), the great poet of the Tang Dynasty, inspired by the scenery, chanted while touring through the Three Gorges, and left the world an immortal poem:

Leaving at dawn the White Emperor crowned with cloud,
I've sailed a thousand li through canyons in a day.
With the monkeys' adieus the riverbanks are loud,
My skiff has left ten thousand mountains far away.

In addition to the magnificent gorges, Mother Nature has also favored the city with other gifts: the rich natural resources in Jinfo Mountain in Nanchuan, known as a natural bank of genes, and in Simian Mountain in Jiangjin, the largest primitive forest on the same latitude in the world; the scenery along valleys on the Wujing River, Jialing River and the Daning River; and the beautiful lakes of Changshou, Xiaonanhai, and Qinglong.

Administrative Divisions

Covering an area of 82,400 square kilometers, Chongqing governs 38 administrative regions (autonomous counties), 21 districts (i.e. Wanzhou District, Qianjiang District, Fuling District, Yuzhong District, Dadukou District, Jiangbei District, Shapingba District, Jiulongpo District, Nan'an District, Beibei District, Yubei District, Ba'nán District, Changshou District, Jiangjin District, Hechuan District, Yongchuan District, Nanchuan District, Qijiang District, Dazu District, Bishan District, and Tongliang District), and 17 counties (autonomous counties) (i.e. Tongnan County, Rongchang County, Liangping County, Chengkou County, Fengdu County, Dianjiang County, Wulong County, Zhongxian County, Kaixian County, Yunyang County, Fengjie County, Wushan County, Wuxi County, Shizhu Tujia Autonomous County, Xiushan Tujia and Miao Autonomous County, Youyang Tujia and Miao Autonomous County, and Pengshui Miao and Tujia Autonomous County). Based on the central downtown, all districts and counties (autonomous counties) of Chongqing seem like a myriad of stars surrounding the moon, constituting a teamed and networked modern urban agglomeration which combines large, middle and small cities in sequence. Nowadays, Chongqing is considered as a megalopolis which has the largest administrative region, the largest population and the most number of administration units in China.

Resources

Chongqing, with its rich natural resources both on the ground and underground, favorably located, with great potential for development, is one of China's regions abundant in natural resources.

1. Vegetation and Animals

There are rich vegetation resources in the territory of Chongqing, with forest coverage reaching 20.49 percent. More than 6,000 kinds of vegetation can be found in this area, including rare species of trees, such as the spinulose tree fern, the metasequoia, the bald Chinese fir, the cathaya argyrop-hylla, and the dove tree, known as "living fossils". On Jinyun Mountain alone, there are more than 1,700 kinds of subtropical trees, including the "living fossil" metasequoia,

the tree that existed 160 million years ago, and *Bretschneidera sinensis* and the "moth tree", trees rarely seen in other parts of the world. On Jinfo Mountain in Nanchuan County, a natural reserve and scenic spot, there are 5,880 species of 333 families of vegetation, including 52 rare plants such as *Cathaya argyrophylla*, square bamboo, ginkgo, giant tea tree, and ginseng, as well as 36 rare species of animals under special protection by the State, such as *Presbytis* *frankisi* and leopard. On Simianshan Mountain in Jiangjin City, there are more than 1,500 kinds of plants and 207 kinds of animals, including 47 key animals and plants under special protection by the State and 23 rare animals.

With its extremely plentiful medical plants, Chongqing is a major producer of traditional Chinese medicinal plants in China. There are over 2,000 kinds of different traditional Chinese medicinal plants, wild or cultivated, growing in large areas in the mountains in Chongqing, including rhizome of Chinese golden thread, rhizome of large-headed *Atractylodes*, honeysuckle, root of hairy asiabell, bulb of fritillary, tuber of elevated *Gastrodia*, bark of official magnolia, yellow tallow, bark of *Eucommia*, rhizoma *Corydalis*, Chinese angelica, etc. Shizhu Tujia Autonomous County is China's major producer of rhizome of Chinese golden thread, and is known as "the land of Chinese golden thread".

There are over 560 kinds of cultivated plants in Chongqing, mainly in four categories: rice, corn, wheat and sweet potatoes, with rice as the most important crop. In addition to farm crops such as grain, oil-bearing crops and vegetables, Chongqing also produces industrial crops of fine quality, including rape-seeds, peanuts, tung oil, Chinese tallow trees, tea, mulberry for silkworms breeding, jute, and flue-cured tobacco, known as "the land of citrus fruits", "the land of tung oil", "the land of Chinese tallow trees".

Qianjiang, with its favorable climate and geographical conditions, produces high-quality flue-cured tobacco of the Yunnan-guizhou type, and is known as "the land of flue-cured tobacco"; Fuling is famous for its tasty mustard tubes, and is known as "the land of mustard tubes". Major fruits in Chongqing include oranges and tangerines, shaddocks, peaches, and plums, oranges and tangerines being the most famous.

Among the over 600 kinds of animal species found in Chongqing, 100 are rare animals that enjoy special protection of the State, including the golden-haired monkey, the South China tiger, the bee monkey, and the black stork. Among the over 40 kinds of domestic animals and fowls, the Rongchang pig is the No.1 of China's three major species of pigs, and this pig is known as a treasure of the country. Shizhu Tujia Autonomous County is the largest producer of long-haired rabbits in China.

2. Minerals

Of the major cities in China, Chongqing is the richest in mineral resources. 75 kinds of minerals have been found, and 40 minerals have proved reserves in 353 places, with a potential value of RMB 388.2 billion. Advantageous minerals in the city are coal, natural gas, manganese, mercury, aluminum, strontium, etc.

The coal reserve proved by Southwest Aluminum (Group) Co., Ltd in Chongqing is 3.3 billion tons, making this city a major coal producer in southern China. Proved reserve for natural gas is 320 billion cubic meters, and the production of natural gas at Wolonghe gas field in Daijiang County ranks No. 1 in China. Both the reserve and the quality of strontium in Chongqing rank No. 1 in

China. The proved reserve of manganese in Chongqing is 37 million tons, ranking No. 2 in China. Reserves of vanadium, molybdenum and barium occupy the third place in China. The mercury mines in Xiushan and Youyang counties with a proved reserve of 19,000 tons, are giant mercury mines rarely found elsewhere in China. Chongqing also produces nonmetal minerals such as rock salt, barite, fluorite, limestone, silicon, etc.

3. Water Resource

Rivers and water systems crisscross the territory of Chongqing, and they have tremendous energy to be developed. While over 600 kilometers of the mainstream of the Yangtze River runs through the city, the river is joined by five major tributaries and over a hundred streams with the Yangtze as the axis, including the Jialing River, the Qujiang River, the Fujiang River, the Wujiang River, and the Daning River. The annual water resources total some 500 billion cubic meters, making Chongqing No. 1 in China in terms of water space per square kilometer. The city has 14.3828 million kilowatts of water energy in theory, of which 7.5 million kilowatts can be developed. The potential installed gross capacity per square kilometer in Chongqing is three times of the average value of the country. This makes Chongqing one of the top cities in China in terms water energy. Besides, Chongqing is also rich in underground thermal energy and drinkable mineral water.

Advantages

Chongqing, as an investment destination of highest potential in West China, has the following five advantages:

Location

Chongqing is located at the core of the economic belt of the upper Yangtze, connecting China's vast west and eastern coast. It is the key region for implementing China's Go West Policy.

Infrastructure

Chongqing is the only transportation hub in West China that integrates water, land, and air transportation. Several trunk railways and artery expressways meet in Chongqing. Fleets of three thousand-ton ships can reach Chongqing port along the Yangtze. Chongqing Jiangbei Airport is one of China's major airports. Chongqing is one of the load centers of the State Grid in West China. Chongqing has a highly reliable energy supply thanks to the abundant local output of coal and natural gas.

Industrial sectors

Chongqing has diverse and competitive industrial sectors as well as a good supplier network. Chongqing was one of China's industrial bases and now is strengthening its five backbone industries: automobile & motorcycle, chemical & pharmaceutical, construction & building

material, food, and tourism. Chongqing is also expediting the development of the high-tech industries: IT, bioengineering and environmental protection.

R&D and Education

Chongqing has a large pool of R&D talents in 1,000 more institutions and 34 universities and colleges. Over 600,000 people are engaged in R&D or technical work.

Market potential

Chongqing has enormous demands for consumption and investment. This attributes to its large population, the improvement of people's living standards (from just having adequate food and clothing to the well-being), the emigration of residents and relocation of factories and towns from the Three Gorges Reservoir Area, large-scale infrastructure projects, protection of ecological environment and the treatment of pollution, and the upgrading of the old industrial bases.

At the new momentum of implementing the Go West strategy, Chongqing has its ambition. It plans to accelerate economic and social development, become the window of China to the world, exert its influence to surrounding areas, and back the development of the Southwest China and the upper Yangtze, based on the CENHUB strategic framework (to make Chongqing the centers of business and trade, finance and science, education, information and culture, the hubs of transportation and telecommunication, and a high-tech based modern industrial base).