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About Kunming Climate

Climate

Kunming, the city of eternal spring, has one of the mildest climates in China that is characterised by short, cool dry winters with mild days and crisp nights; and long, warm and humid summers, though still cooler than the lowlands. It's usually coldest in January with an average temperature of 8 °C (about 46 °F), while it's hottest in July with the average temperature hovering around a comfortably cool 18 °C (65 °F). It does get tend to get wetter with rainfall increasing between the months of May to October.

Spring - From March to May, It is cool and dry. A sweater or light coat is advisable for the evenings and nights though, as the temperature does dip with the sun setting.

Summer - Between June and September, an umbrella or a raincoat might be handy as most of the annual rainfall is concentrated in the summer. July is the hottest month, with daily high temperatures of between 21 °C (70 °F) and 27 °C (80 °F); come the night, it drops as low as 15 °C (60 °F). Summer wear is fine in the day, with something a little thicker if you want to stay warm during the nights of if you are heading up to the mountains.

Autumn - Fall is between October and November, where the weather is pleasant, dry and cool; and with much less rainfall than in summer. There could be sudden turns in the weather though, where the mercury may dip lower unexpectedly.

Winter - From December to February, it is mild and sunny for the most part, but it does get cold with the rain. Drizzles do seem endless and the higher humidity does make it seem colder than it really is. Snow is rare, and light, if it does. It gets coldest in January with a low of 2 °C (36 °F) and high of 9 °C (48 °F). December and February is only slightly warmer. Winter wear is a must, as is an umbrella.

Spring-like Weather

The average temperature in Kunming ranges between 15 °C (morning & night) to 20 °C (noon)

These excellent climate conditions have won Kunming the deserving name of "Spring City" where golfers enjoy their Spring-like weather games all year round.

SEASON	MONTH	MORNING °C	NOON °C	LAST LIGHT
Winter	Dec – Feb	8 – 11	13 – 16	6:45pm
Spring	Mar – May	14 – 19	19 – 23	7:30pm
Summer	Jun – Aug	18 – 20	22 – 25	8:30pm
Autumn	Sep – Nov	13 – 18	17 – 21	6:45pm

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About Kunming Things To Do

Attractions

Shilin Stone Forest was known as the first wonder of the world ever since the Ming Dynasty, the 270 million year old Stone Forest stretches over an area of roughly 400 square kilometres and includes both large and small stone forests as well as other scenic spots, like Shilin Lake which is filled with underwater stalactites. The huge limestone pillars are scattered in a huge labyrinth, all shaped by nature and resembling pagodas, animals and humans in a sight not often seen.

The Golden Horse and Jade Rooster Archway was built back in the Ming Dynasty and has a history of more than 400 years. Right in the center of downtown Kunming, many of the buildings represent Kunming's old architectural styles giving the visitor a glimpse into the past. Where the archways are located is a blend of the old, the renovated Jingri Lou (or Close to the Sun Pavilion) and the ancient East and West Temple Pagodas, alongside the numerous modern shopping malls and high-end Chinese and western restaurants.

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Bird and Flower Market situated in Jing Xing Street is a glimpse into local life with numerous stalls and shops run by ethnic minorities where one can buy all manner of ethnic handicrafts, including flowers and anything from live birds to tortoises.

Guandu Old Town is a 'new-old' area of southern Kunming, in many ways like a small slice of the old towns of Lijiang or Dali. In addition to beautiful classical architecture, the area houses four temples, parks, pavilions and bridges, souvenir stalls, as well as a plethora of shops and restaurants (many serving donkey meat as a delicacy). This is one of Kunming's most pleasant people-watching spots.

Yunnan Ethnic Village is fascinating window into the daily lives of the many Chinese ethnic minorities in Yunnan province; a microcosm of culture, architecture, and folk custom arranged in a beguiling patchwork of villages where visitors can experience the traditional performances, and join in the festivals celebrated by the more than 25 ethnic minority groups in this ethnic village.

Shopping

Kunming is a shopping paradise. Its streets and plazas filled with shopping malls, department stores, chain-store supermarkets, and specialty boutiques. Three of the principal shopping streets, all centrally located, are Qingnian Road, Dongfeng Road and Zhengyi Road.

Some of the more popular items from the Yunnan region include:

Yunnan or Xuanwei ham is reputed as one of the three most famous types of hams in China, and is a high quality ham with small bones, thin skin, and a richly aromatic tender flesh, with a beautiful colour. This ham first gained international recognition back in 1915 when it won a gold medal at the Panama World Fair.

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Pu'er tea is renowned and produced largely in Yunnan. This higher grade of tea sees prices increasing with the corresponding aged quality. Large tea leaves are fermented and seasoned in the aging process till fragrant, then compressed into bricks, cakes, and other shapes for further fermentation. Drunk daily, pu'er tea is believed to warm up one's digestion system, lower cholesterol, and help ladies loose weight.

Wax prints are an ancient tradition among many ethnic minority groups, artisans weave themes related to their respective cultures, and the resulting handicraft are very colorful, with both unique and complex geometric patterns, as well as naturalistic representations of their lives.

Dai Brocade is the traditional folk textile handicraft of the Dai ethnic minority. In essence, it is a drapery famed for its exquisite weave, elegant pattern, bright colors, beautiful presentation, and strong ethnic styles used in making bags, curtains, wedding dresses, and cushions. Peacocks and elephants are auspicious and recurring patterns to symbolise a bumper harvest.

Food

Cross Bridge Rice Noodles is Yunnan's best known dish, and typically consists of a bowl of boiling chicken soup, to which diners add their own selection of chicken, fish, and up to nine varieties of thin meat slices, rice noodles, vegetables and spices, much like a hot pot.

Pot Steamed Chicken brims with distinctive Yunnan flavor. The chicken is sealed in a special ceramic pot with tonics and herbs and steamed through a funnel in the pot for several hours till tender, tasty and nutritious.

Yiliang Roasted Duck is a crispy skin roast duck similar to Peking Duck that uses honey to crisp and colour the skin instead. It is roasted with pine branches and needles, imparting a unique flavour and eaten with shallots, pepper, and a sauce. The version found in Goujie Street of Yiliang is extraordinarily delicious, with a crisp yellow skin, and soft tender duck meat with a slight flavor of pine needles.

Auspicious Clouds Food Street (Xiang Yun Jie) in the centre of Kunming is home to all manner of mouth-watering street snacks, including cross bridge rice noodles, pot-cooked rice noodles, Chenggong fermented tofu and Yiliang roasted duck. Apart from the traditional Yunnan eats, snacks from Taiwan and other parts of South East Asia fill this street. A must for foodies.

Nightlife

Kundu Bar Street is known locally as the Lan Kwai Fong of Kunming, and is where the young and the gorgeous gather to slake their thirst. Located between Xinwen Road and Guofang Road, this nightlife paradise is an old narrow street that over the years has seen a mushrooming of bars, pubs and KTV lounges, the more popular being Babi Club, Soho, Mix, Top One, S Muse and ID Club.