

CHANGSHA

CITY GUIDE





INTRODUCTION

Changsha is the capital city of Hunan province and is also its largest. It is an important port city, located on the lower reaches of the Xiang River, a branch of the famous Yangtze. A large hi-tech zone built in 1992, it continues to attract large levels of foreign direct investment.

Changsha has a population of 8.15 million people. The average temperature during the summer is 35°C, with a mild winter (average 10°C) and a comfortable and dry Autumn. Spring is humid and rainy. The total GDP of Changsha is around US\$139bn and continues to grow.

 8.15 million

35°C   4°C

GDP \$139bn

C O N T E N T S

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History & Natural Wonders

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C U L T U R E



Changsha has a long history – development in the city can be traced back to 3,000BC with the proliferation of Longshan culture.

Changsha has an important role in the modern era as Mao Zedong, the founder of the People's Republic of China, began his career there. From 1913 to 1918, he was a student at the Hunan Number 1 Teachers' Training School and later returned as a teacher and principal from 1920 to 1922. During the Chinese Civil War the school was destroyed but has since been restored.

HISTORY & NATURAL



Changsha is an ancient city with a tremendous influence in the development of Chinese political and cultural identity. The intricate **Kaifu Temple** gives its visitors an insight into China's ancient history with its fantastic halls and Buddha carvings.

The UNESCO world heritage national park of Wulingyuan (pictured above) inspired the mountainous landscape for the major blockbuster Avatar and continues to be an incredible natural wonder. Located five hours northwest of Changsha, it is home to scenic streams, pools and waterfalls.

C U I S I N E



Changsha's stinky tofu is not merely a famous dish in the city, but it is known throughout China. This kind of tofu has a pungent scent and is a unique type of the dish. The more it smells, the better it tastes – if we are to believe the locals in Changsha! The colour of stinky tofu is also coal black unlike other types. It is usually served with hot pepper, or it can be dipped in hot pepper soup. This does not only make the dish tastier but also helps to soften the tofu.

Orange Isle (Juzi Island)



The biggest inland Island in China and abounding with ripe oranges, the Orange Isle in Changsha is well worth a visit and has much history and leisure activities to entertain visitors.

Activities and sights on the island include a Southeast Asian style Beach Park, the Mao Zedong Statue, a 100-foot Fountain, and in summer, the Orange Isle fireworks show.

I N D U S T R Y

Growth

- Changsha had a GDP of US\$139bn when last measured in 2016, and it continues to grow.
- Changsha is an important manufacturing, transportation and commercial centre in China.
- Changsha has a highly regarded education system, once being the site of many ancient schools and academies. Current prestigious Universities include Central South University, a medical college which ranks 16th in China.

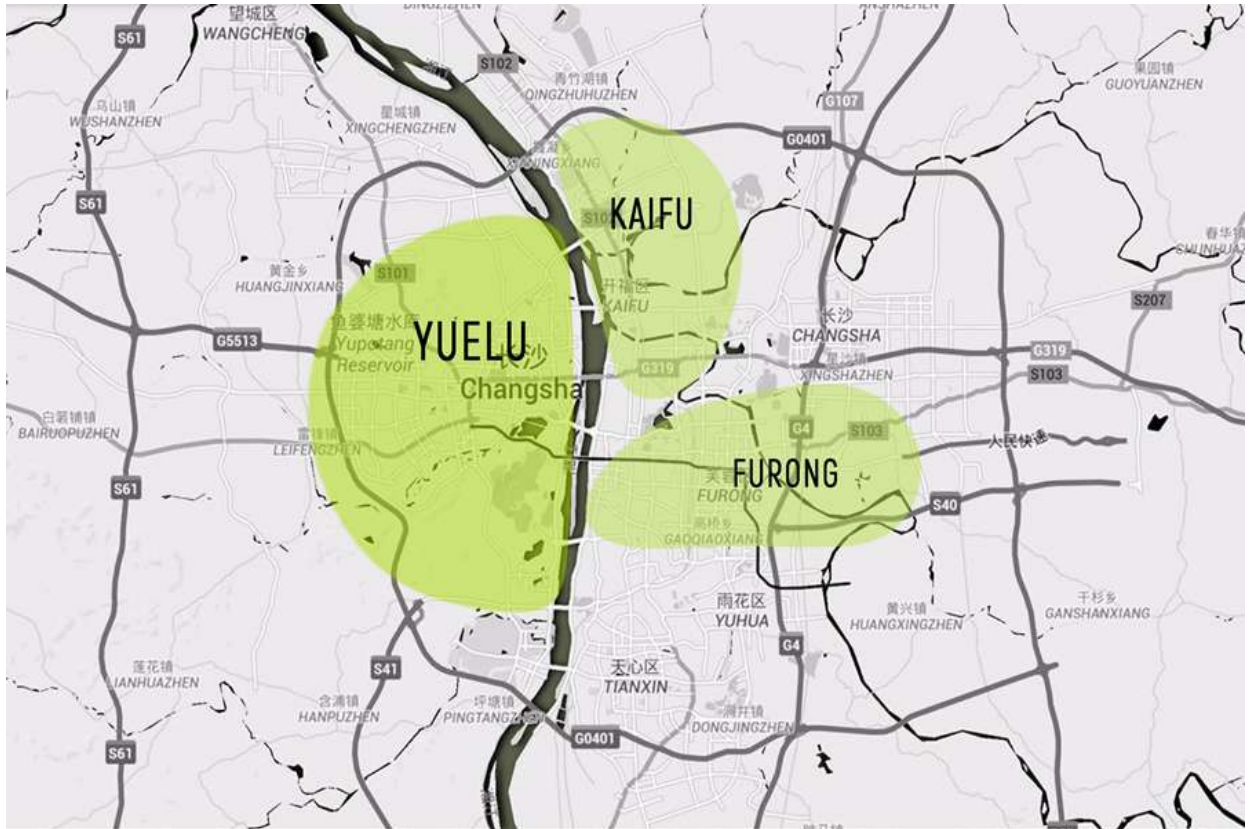
Business

- Changsha features a major port, handling goods such as rice, cotton, timber and livestock.
- There is a growing consumer market, where minimum salaries have risen close to level of Beijing: at 600rmb monthly (vs 40rmb in the capital).

Industrial Zones

- Changsha Economic and Technical Development Zone (features high-tech, biological technology and new material industries)
- Liuyang Economic and Technological Development Zone (biological pharmacy, information technology, health foods)

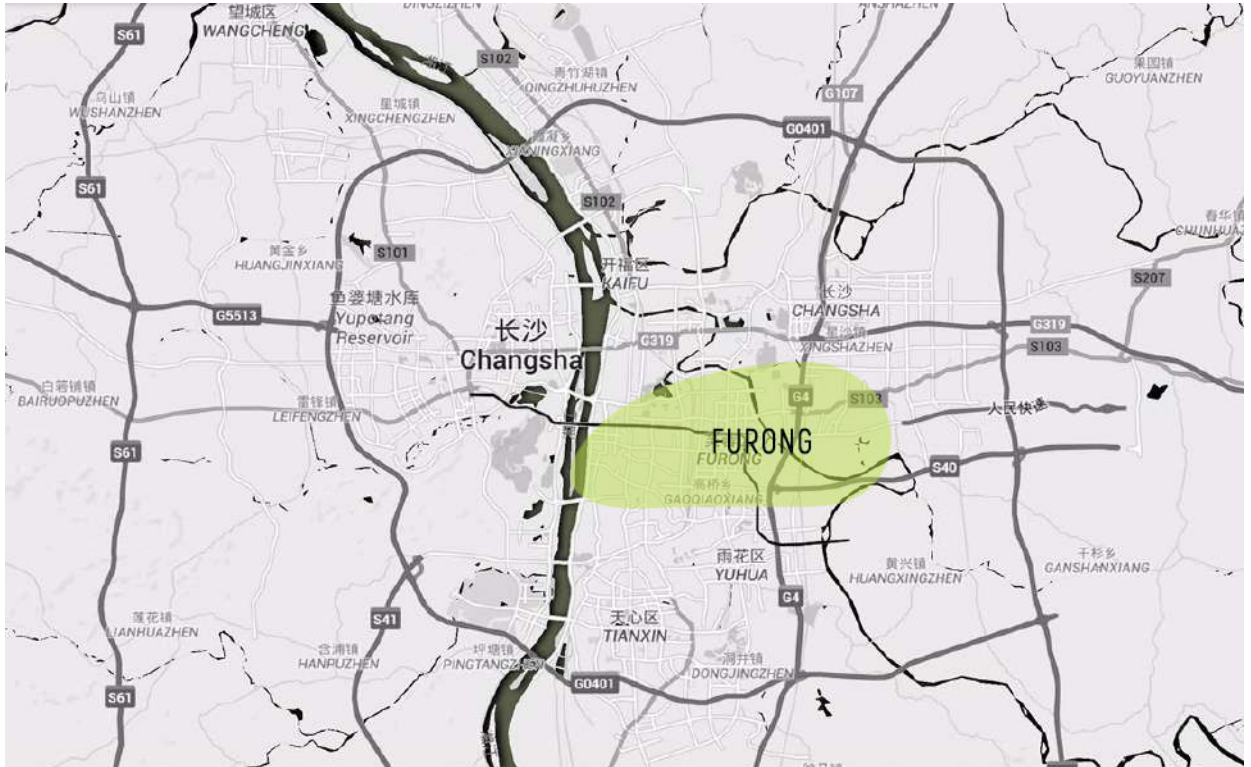
CITY MAP



The three most important districts in Changsha are Furong, Kaifu and Yuelu Districts.

Changsha has two counties. One of them, Changsha county, includes Xinsha, a prime location for expats. Foreign companies are often based here and it is a major economic development zone.

CITY MAP



Furong District is located in the Southeast of Changsha. This area is developing rapidly and it is the city center of Changsha. In this district you can find many shopping malls including Wuyi Plaza. Besides this, you can also find the New World Department Store, located on 153 Wuyixi Road. For some history, there is a museum based in this district called the Changsha Municipal Museum where you can learn more about the politician Mao Zedong.

ATTRACTIONS

Yuelu Mountain No.58 Denggao Road is located in the west bank of Xiangjing river in the west of Changsha City. Mt Yuelu is known for the natural scenery that provides picturesque views. The highest peak is Yuelu peak which is 300m above sea level.

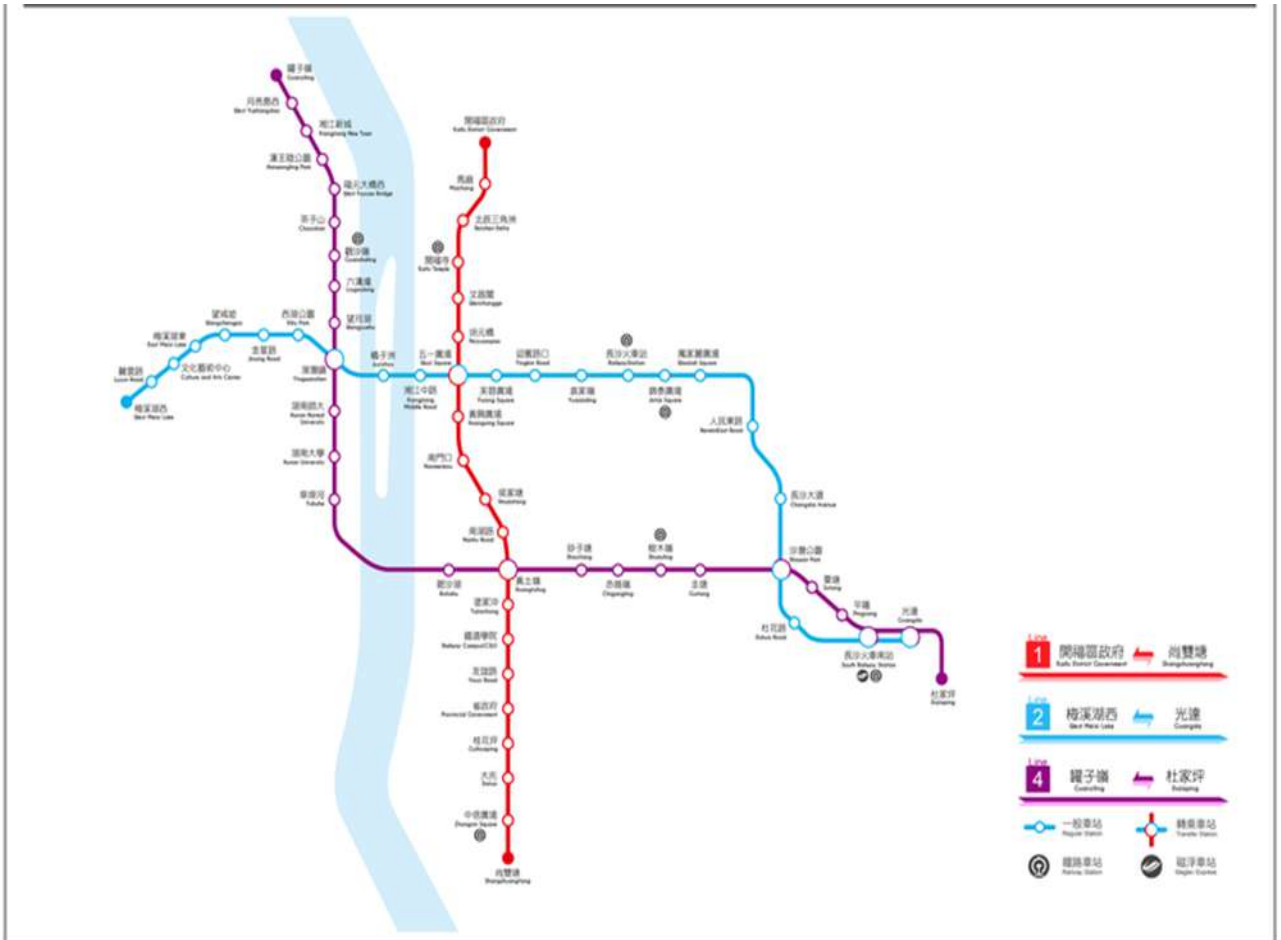
Taiping Street Tianxin District, is a cultural street located in the south of Changsha's old city. Many stroll around and taste local snacks being sold such as sticky tofu.

Songyahu Wetland Park is a public wetland park in Yanghu Yuelu District Changsha county. The park is designed as a wildlife preserve, and 130 different bird species and 700 different plant species can be found in the park.

Window of the World is a theme park that has filled with replicas of 50 tourist attractions that can be found around the world, this includes Mount Rushmore and Pyramids. There are also roller-coasters and a cinema to be enjoyed.

Orange Island is a long and thin island in on the Xiang Jiang River. There is a huge statute of Mao Zedong, who spent a lot of his time on the island when he was young. There is also a large orange garden for which the island is named after.

M E T R O



- There are three metro lines currently running in Changsha, and three additional lines are under construction.
- Fares range from 2-6rmb, depending on stops travelled up to 30km – after this, it costs 1rmb per 9km travelled afterwards.
- Changsha has one fast line that runs from Huanghua Airport to South High Speed Train Station, called the Changsha Cifu fast line.

B U S

Public Buses

- All urban areas are covered by 200 bus lines. There are air-conditioned or non air-conditioned buses, with the former costing 1rmb and the latter 2rmb. Buses run from 6am to 10pm.

Long Distance Buses

- There are four long distance bus stations in Changsha: West, East, and South, North.
- From South Bus Station: Coaches to Guilin, Xianmen.
- From East Bus Station: Coaches to Xiamen, Nanjing, Shanghai, Nancheng, and Hefei.
- From West Bus Station: This is at Xiaoxiangbeilu.
- From North Bus Station: This is at Furongbeilu.

Sightseeing Buses

- There are four long distance bus stations in Changsha: West, East, and South, North.
- From South Bus Station: Coaches to Guilin, Xianmen.
- From East Bus Station: Coaches to Xiamen, Nanjing, Shanghai, Nancheng, and Hefei.
- From West Bus Station: This is at Xiaoxiangbeilu.
- From North Bus Station: This is at Furongbeilu.

B U S

Changsha Transport Card

- In Changsha, you can use this card on buses, the Metro and the Maglev Express (which runs from the South Railway Station to Huanghua International Airport)
- This card gives you a 10% discount on the Metro and the Maglev Express.
- For getting around Changsha or any city in China, Maxxelli recommends downloading the Chinese maps app, Baidu Maps.

TAXI

- There are several types of taxis in Changsha. These include official taxis, unofficial taxis, ride-hailing apps (Didi), etc.
- It is important to ensure that legal taxis are recognized. Legal cabs tend to be light green, yellow or blue. In addition, the cabs are registered with license plates that start with AX or AT.
- The prices vary according to the type of taxi, but regular taxis start their prices from 8rmb for the first 2km, then 2rmb within up to 13km and then 3rmb beyond this.

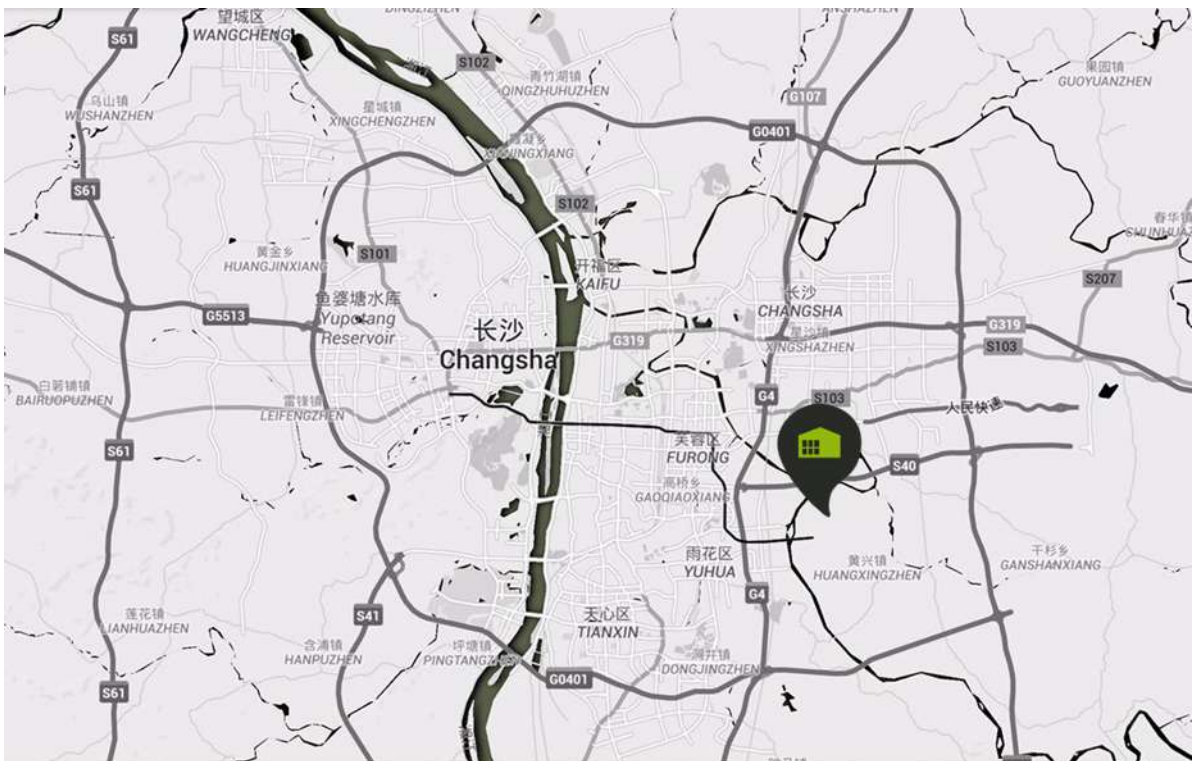
HOUSING



- Large variety of accommodation is available, more can be found on the property proposal webpage at www.maxxelli-consulting.com.
- Apartments, townhouses, and villas in both western and traditional styles can be found, listed from high to low price ranges.
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SCHOOLING

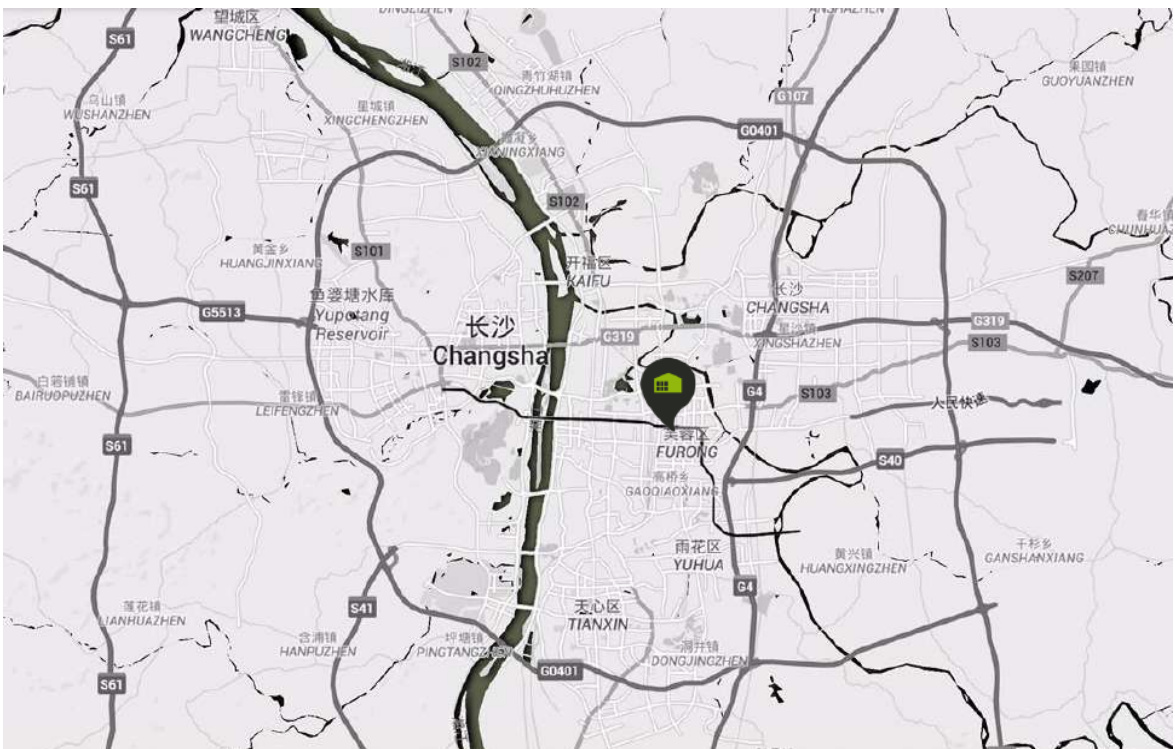
Changsha has three international schools which all provide high quality education and are taught in English for children aged 2 to 19: Changsha WES Academy (CWA).



HEALTH CARE

There is a health clinic called Global Doctor Changsha Clinic with an international department where you can receive quality services in both English and Chinese.

Maxxelli recommends a visit to Global Doctors for consultations in English and a faster service.



S H O P P I N G

For shopping, Wuyi Square in the city center is unmissable. In the center of the square there is the Aijialing Shopping Circle, which features two famous department stores: the Friendship Store and the Apollo Shopping city.

If you would like to experience something more cultural, it is worth visiting the Embroidery Research Institute. Here, you can pick up one of China's four finest forms of embroidery.



NIGHTLIFE

Changsha's downtown has one of the largest concentrations of clubs and discos in the country, and the city was named one of the top nightlife cities in China. The best place to meet other expats is on West Jiefang Road. A good mix of bars, international restaurants and clubs can be found here. Clubs include the pop-heavy Glamor, while the more relaxed Margaret offers live rhythm and blues.



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Contact	Number
Police	110
Traffic Accident	122
Medical Emergency	120
Fire Emergency	119
Tourist Complaint	2253933
The Provincial Hospital	2225242



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