

# Sichuan Information

## Overview



Sichuan is well known throughout the world for its spicy cuisine, the famed Panda bear, and more. Located in the southwestern part of China, the province covers an area of 185,410 square miles (480,000 sq km), making it the nation's 5th largest province. Its population ranks 3rd among provinces with over 87,250,000 people. The capital and largest city, Chengdu, is located centrally just east of the sharp rise of the Tibetan Plateau.

## Sichuan Geography

Sichuan province is located in western central China. The eastern portion of the province has countless winding and spectacular rivers, most of them tributaries flowing southward to the Yangtze (Chang Jiang) — including the Min River. The western border with Tibet (Xizang Zizhiqu) follows the basin between the north-south running Ningjing and Shaluli mountain ranges in the west and east respectively. Sichuan also shares a border with Qinghai in the northwest and Shaanxi in the northeast. East of the Shaluli range, the Daxue range runs roughly parallel. East of the Dadu River from Daxue Shan, the Qionglai Mountains run northeast with the eastern edge falling sharply and ending the Tibetan Plateau. South of Qionglai Shan the Tibetan Plateau ends similarly with the southeast running Daliang Mountains. Sichuan also borders Hubei, Hunan, and Gansu provinces.

## Sichuan Demographics

Sichuan is 95% Han. Yi comprise 2.6% and Tibetan make up 1.5%. Qiang compose 0.4% of the population.

## Sichuan History

Sichuan province entered Chinese dynastic history under the first unification of China during the Qin Dynasty (221 BC – 206 BC). Prior to that, Shu, in modern Chengdu, was a local administrative center rivaling Ba, in modern Chongqing, which was part of the province until 1997. After the collapse of the Han Dynasty (206 BC – 221 AD) the Shu Han Kingdom (221 AD – 263 AD) was established here during the Three Kingdoms Period (220 AD – 265 AD). The Jin Dynasty (265 AD – 420 AD) then toppled this kingdom first in its path to reunify China. Möngke Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, died of dysentery here staving the Southern Song Dynasty's (960 AD – 1279 AD) defeat.

The Republic of China moved its capital to Chongqing. During World War II only to be defeated by the People's Liberation Army of the Communist Party of China, after also having been scarred by the Japanese invasion. The defeated Kuomintang government retreated to Taiwan.

## Sichuan Industry

Sichuan province has many industrial facets. It is a major agricultural producer. The province also has significant iron, coal, energy, and steel industries. The province generally produces around one fifth of the country's wine annually. There are also a number of auto manufacturing plants in the province. Natural and man-made landscape has bolstered the province's already strong tourist industry. Although Sichuan's GDP is usually in China's provincial and municipal top ten, due to its large population the per capita GDP is generally among the bottom ten provinces.