

Hotel: White swan hotel

Address: White swan hotel Shamian, Island, Guangzhou, China 510133

Tel: 86 20 81886968

Fax: 86 20 81861188

Email: swan@whiteswanhotel.com

Language: English, Chinese and Cantonese

The website of white swan hotel: <http://www.whiteswanhotel.com/eng/Public/index.asp>

The geography site of white swan hotel



Information on travel: ways for reference:

all over the world → Guangzhou new Baiyun airport → Take taxi to white swan hotel (no more than 150yuan)

Guangzhou East Train Station → take metro line 1 to HuanSha → Take taxi to white swan hotel

Guangzhou Train Station → take metro line 2 to GongYuanQian then interchange line 1 to HuanSha → Take taxi to white swan hotel

Website of Guangzhou metro: <http://www.gzmtr.com/en/ckfw/wyzdt/>

Website of Guangzhou new Baiyun airport: <http://www.newsgd.com/specials/airportguide/>

Detailed information about the Average, Maximun and Minimum Temperatures and the rainfall in Guangzhou:

Average Data	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average High (°F)	63/67	63/67	69/72	76/79	83/87	86/90	89/93	89/92	87/91	82/86	75/78	67/71
Average High (°C)	17/19	17/19	20/22	24/26	28/30	30/32	32/34	32/34	31/33	28/30	24/26	20/22
Average Low (°F)	48/52	50/54	56/60	64/68	71/75	74/78	76/79	75/79	73/77	66/70	58/62	50/54
Average Low (°C)	9/11	10/12	14/16	18/20	22/24	23/25	24/26	24/26	23/25	19/21	14/16	10/12
Rain (in)	1.4/1.5	2.6/2.7	3.8/3.9	7.3/7.4	10.4/10.5	10.8/10.9	9.6/9.7	9.1/9.2	6.7/6.8	2.5/2.6	1.5/1.6	1.1/1.2
Rain (mm)	35/40	65/70	95/100	185/190	265/270	270/275	245/250	230/235	170/175	65/70	40/45	25/30

The information from: <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/climate/guangzhou.htm>

Currency, Credit Cards

Renminbi (RMB): The basic unit is the Yuan. Foreign currency can be changed at the main branches of the Bank of China, the tourist hotels, Hotels usually charge the official rate. You will need your passport to change money.

Credit cards are still gaining ground in China with Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diners Club being the most common. Credit cards can be used in most mid- to top-range hotels, Friendship Stores and department stores.

Electricity:

The electrical current in China is 220 volts, 50 cycles (AC). Wall outlets take American-style plugs, with two flat parallel prongs.



some useful websites on tourism, traffic, weather, hotels:

<http://english.gz.gov.cn/vfs/web/english/home.htm>

<http://www.travelchinaguide.com/attraction/guangdong/guangzhou/index.htm>

<http://www.studentflights.com.au/flights/>

<http://www.chinahighlights.com/guangzhou/index.htm>

<http://www.newsgd.com/specials/airportguide/>

<http://www.whiteswanhotel.com/eng/public/index.asp>

Guangzhou, a city with a history of over 2000 years, is the capital city as well as the political, economic, cultural and educational center of Guangdong Province. As the communication hub and key trading port of South China, it is also China's important gateway to the outside world. Having ushered in the 21st century, Guangzhou is thriving, full of vitality in its economic and technological development. China's entry into the WTO has provided Guangzhou with still greater room for further development, thus offering business firms at home and abroad new investment and trade opportunities.

Some attractions:

The Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall

The Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, situated in the original site of Sun Yat-sen's Presidential Office on the southern slope of Yuexiu Hill, is a memorial building built in 1931 with the funds raised by the Guangzhou people and overseas Chinese in memory of Sun Yat-sen, the pioneer of China's bourgeois democratic revolution.



Sun Yat-sen, born on November 12, 1866 at Cuiheng Village of Guangdong province, was a leading figure in China's revolution against the Qing government and the first President of the Republic. In August 1905, he formulated the Three Principles of the People - nationalism, democracy, and social well-being - which he believed were the guidelines for building a modern China, and as he had proposed, he truly contributed his whole life into the great task.

Completed in October 1983, the memorial hall, occupying an area of 12,000 square meters with a height of 46 meters, has magnificent exterior and elegant interior decorations. The whole building, octagonal in shape, is of a typical Chinese architectural style. The designer skillfully applied the structural theory of architectural mechanics taking full advantage of the benefits of reinforced concrete. He thus created a pillar less space with the span of up to 71 meters, its grandeur resembling a huge umbrella when seen from afar.

Above the entrance of the door, there is a plaque that bears in gold the words "Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall" inscribed by Liao Chengzhi, the vice chairman of the standing Committee of the National People's Congress. At the central up-layer wall of the small hall hangs another plaque with the words "The Whole World as a Community" which was inscribed by Sun Yat-sen himself.

In 1956, a 5-meter- high bronze statue of Dr Sun was erected in front of the hall.

Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall is the most symbolic building of Guangzhou, and a key venue for the city's large-scale meetings and performances.

Admission Fee:	RMB 20
Opening Hours:	08:00 to 16:50
Recommended Time for a Visit:	45 minutes
Bus Route:	7,22,27,41,56

White Cloud Mountain

From ancient times, White Cloud Mountain has been one of the most famous spots of natural beauty in Guangzhou, and it's still known as the First Spectacular Scene of Guangzhou. Every time the sun shines after the rain, and through late spring, a wreath of airy clouds circles the mountains. This is how White Cloud Mountain has won its name, and its reputation as a marvelous spectacle of nature. The fierce differentiation of rocks, and the different ways in which erosion has affected them, has caused White Cloud Mountain a crisscross network of gullies. So its relative height is now about 100 meters (109 yards). The quiet and secluded environment of the valley has made White Cloud Mountain a haven of peace from the big city.



People always describe the natural beauty of Guangzhou as being composed of white cloud and pearl sea, the white cloud referring to that of White Cloud Mountain, located about 17 kilometers (10 miles) north of Guangzhou. The total area of White Cloud Mountain is about 28 square kilometers (10 square miles), consisting of 30 peaks. Moxing Ridge (Star-Scraping Ridge), known as 'the first peak under the southern sky', is about 382 meters (417 yards) high. You can stand on the summit and look over the whole city and the beautiful Pearl River, the most famous river in Guangzhou.

White Cloud Mountain is an ideal place for people to relax. It has six areas that are popular with visitors, Bright Pearl Building Park, the San tailing Summit Park, the Bird Spring Valley Park (Mingchun Valley), the Santailing Park, the Luhu Park and the Fei'eling Park. Yuntai Garden, a bright pearl in the crown of White Cloud Mountain, is located in Santailing Park. Yuntai Garden is an enormous garden filled with all kinds of blooms and trees, which make Guangzhou, City of Flowers, worthy of the name. The Sculpture Park is located in Fei'eling, and covers an area of 46 hectares (113 acres). It was built according to the fashion of the times, which was to use modern languages in sculpture. You will also find the biggest natural birdcage in China, perfect for enjoying all kinds of birds; Bird Spring Valley Park. Here you can stroll idly by the river and mountains, and mingle with the birds. Luhu Park is famous for Jinye Pond. The lake is so clear that the beautiful sights surrounding the lake are perfectly reflected in the water, like a brilliantly drawn picture.

Admission Fee:	RMB 18
Opening Hours:	06:00 to 17:00
Recommended Time for a Visit:	Half a day
Bus Route:	Take 11 then walk up to the mountain or take 24 then transfer to a ropeway

Yuexiu Park:

Yuexiu Park is the largest park in downtown Guangzhou. Covering an area of 860,000 square meters (212.5 acres), the park is made up of three artificial lakes and seven hills of Yuexiu Mountain; hence the name Yuexiu Park.



Yuexiu Park is a perfect combination of cultural relics and ecological tourism, reputed for its pretty water and hills as well as cultural relics. The main places of interest include the stone sculpture of the Five Rams, Zhenhai Tower, the site of the Ming Dynasty City Wall, and Square Cannon Site.

The Five-Ram Sculpture is one of the most famous structures in Guangzhou. It has become the emblem of Guangzhou City. Legend has it that more than 2,000 years ago, Guangzhou was a barren land with people who despite hard work were suffering from famine. One day five immortals in five-color garments came riding on five rams, playing their legendary music. The rams held sheaves of rice in their mouths. The immortals left the sheaves of rice for the Guangzhou people, gave blessings to the city and left. The rams turned into stone and the city of Guangzhou became a rich and populous place. Guangzhou got the name of the City of Rams and the City of Ears.



Zhenhai Tower, better known among the locals as the Five-Story Tower, is one of the landmarks of Guangzhou city. An interesting historical record has it that Zhu Liangzu, Yongjia Marquis of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), saw yellow and purple air rising over Yuexiu Mountain and was told by a sorcerer that it was the omen of a new emperor. To subdue this omen, Zhu Liangzu ordered this tower to be built in 1380. Over the past 600 years, the tower has been destroyed five times and set up five times. Now it is the Guangzhou Museum, housing relics and documents showing Guangzhou's history over 2,000 years. Known as the first tower in Lingnan (South of Nanling Mountain) Area, Zhenhai Tower now is 28 meters (91.9 feet) high and 16 meters (52.5 feet) wide. The striking contrast of green glazed tiles and red walls makes the tower elegant.

While the historical traces create a serene environment, singing birds and exuberant plants add vigor and natural beauty to the park. Three artificial lakes -- Dongxiu, Nanxiu, and Beixiu-- cover an area of more than 50,000 square meters (538,213 square feet). Dongxiu Lake and Nanxiu Lake are tranquil and elegant, inviting painting and sketching artists. Beixiu Lake, surrounded by trees, is open for boating and fishing. What's more, the lakes are connected

with arch bridges and decorated with pavilions and corridors in the Lingnan Style. Flower exhibitions are held here from time to time. For nature lovers who can't get to the faraway countryside or forests, Yuexiu Park is an optimum choice with modern conveniences.

As a large comprehensive park, Yuexiu Park provides an amusement park, swimming pool, gymnasium, restaurants, stalls, museum and art museum besides plant and flower viewing area. All visitors find pleasure in Yuexiu Park.

Tips:

There are five gates to Yuexiu Park, namely the Facet, East, West, North and South Gates. There are many buses at each gate with Metro Line 2 arriving at Facet Gate.

Admission Fee:	RMB 15
Opening Hours:	06:10 to 21:00
Recommended Time for a Visit:	45 minutes
Bus Route:	5,7,24,29,101,103

The Ancestral Temple of the Chen Family:

The Ancestral Temple of the Chen Family, built between 1890 and 1894 during the reign of Emperor Guangxu of the Qing Dynasty, is the largest, best preserved, and best decorated ancient architecture existing in Guangdong province.



It was built with donations of members of the Chen family who lived in the 72 counties of the Guangdong province. After its completion, the temple was used to provide lodgings for Chen family candidates who came from all over Guangdong to in order to prepare for the imperial examinations to be held in Guangzhou. Hence it was also called the Chen Clan Academy.

Occupying an area of 15,000 square meters, the temple, has a rectangular main building and comprises six courtyards, nine main halls, and nineteen buildings. With an architectural design of traditional Guangdong style, the temple is especially renowned for its beautiful decorations. In the temple, historical figures, legends, and scenes are represented in many art forms, including wood carving, brick carving, pottery carving, stone carving, lime carving, clay sculpture, ash sculpture, brass and cast iron, grotto, new year painting, and so on. These artistic and historical attributes make the temple an important attraction in Guangzhou.

In 1986, it was designated as an important cultural relic by the State Council. The temple now is the site of the Museum of Guangdong Folk Arts and Crafts.

Admission Fee:	RMB 10
Opening Hours:	08:30 to 17:20
Recommended Time for a Visit:	45 minutes
Bus Route:	55,61,74,34
Electric Bus route:	104

Bright Filial Piety Temple (Guangxiaosi):

Situated at the north end of Guangxiao Road, Bright Filial Piety Temple (Guangxiaosi) is among the grandest and most influential temples in China with a history dating back more than 1,700 years. In fact, it is said that 'The Bright Filial Piety Temple existed before the birth of Guangzhou City'. In 1961, the Temple was designated by the State Council as a Key National Cultural Preservation Site.



Initially built during the Western Han Dynasty (207 BC - 24 AD) as a private house, it was used as a lecture hall before being dedicated completely to the function of a Zen Buddhist Temple during the Southern Song Dynasty (1127 - 1279). The many noted monks and sutra-translators who have resided there have contributed greatly to the spread of Buddhist culture. The pride of the temple is Hui Neng, the famous sixth master of Zen Buddhism, who had his hair cut and was initiated into monkhood there.

The architecture of the temple and cultural relics provide insight into the history of Chinese Buddhism, culture, and architecture as well as the local history of Guangdong Province. The main complex consists of Mahavira Hall, Sixth Ancestor Hall (Liuzudian), Samgharama Hall, Heavenly King Hall (Tianwangdian), the East and West Iron Towers, and the Mahakaruna Dharani Sutra Pillar.

The Mahavira Hall was built in 401 during the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317 - 420) with additions made during succeeding dynasties. Today it is 35.36 meters (116 feet) long by 24.8 meters (81.36 feet) wide by 13.6 meters (44.62 meters) high. Situated on a high platform, the stately building, which is considered the most magnificent in South China, is guarded by the Bell Tower and the Drum Tower. Inside are three fine statues of Buddha. Travelers to other parts of South China will note that many other temples in the area have imitated the architectural style of Mahavira Hall.

The Sixth Ancestor Hall, located behind Samgharama Hall, was established during the Northern Song Dynasty (960 - 1127) in honor of Master Hui Neng, a larger-than-life statue of whom is found inside. Behind this hall grows a bodhi tree, which symbolizes the Buddhist ideal of wisdom. In 676, the abbot of the temple buried Hui Neng's cut hair under the tree. Today the seven-story (7.8 meters [25 feet]) octagonal Yifa Pagoda stands as a memorial to him. Each level houses eight shrines.

The East and West Iron Towers are the oldest iron towers in China. The West Iron Tower, the older of the two, was erected in 963; the East Tower was built four years later in 967. The four upper floors of the West Tower failed to survive the collapse of the house. The East Tower, which remains intact, is seven stories tall. About 1,000 shrines, each housing a small, exquisite statue of Buddha, are carved into the exterior of the tower. It is said that at the time of its completion, the exterior of the tower was gilded.

In addition to these structures, other beautiful buildings and relics can be seen on the Temple grounds. The Heavenly King Hall boasts the 380-year old Helin Stele, which was inscribed during the Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1644). The Spring of Washing Bowl was dug in 527 to provide clear spring water in which Bodhidharma, the initiator of Chinese Zen Buddhism, could wash his bowl. And the unique mushroom-shaped dharani pillar, which was made of bluestone in 826, is engraved on all eight sides with the words of the Mahakaruna Dharani Sutra.

Admission Fee:	RMB 6
Opening Hours:	06:00 to 17:50
Recommended Time for a Visit:	Half an hour
Bus Route:	4,31,36,102

Western Han Dynasty Nanyue King Mausoleum Museum:

Located on Jiefang Bei Road, Guangzhou, the Western Han Dynasty Nanyue King Mausoleum Museum is the oldest and largest Han tomb with the most funerary objects in Lingnan (South of the Nanling Mountain) Area. As one of the 80 famous museums in the world, the museum covers 14,000 square meters (150, 699.6 square feet) with 10 exhibition halls.



The owner of the tomb is the second king, Zhao Mei of Nanyue State of the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-24 A.D.). Hidden 20 meters (65.6 feet) underground, the tomb is made up of 750 huge stones with colorful murals. The over 1,000 pieces of cultural relics, bronze ware and terra cotta ware in particular, feature the Yue Culture of south China(Nanyue Culture).

Represented also are traces of central Chinese culture, the Chu culture of south China, the Bashu culture of southwest China, the Hun culture from the northern grassland, and even foreign cultures.

Highlighting the mausoleum is a silk-jade garment made up of 2,291 pieces of jade. Though jade garments with pieces connected by gold, silver, or copper are not uncommon, this garment with jade pieces connected by silk is the only one of its kind in the world. Nor are historical records available to verify other jade garments connected by silk thread. In addition, the style of buttons down the front is unique among unearthed jade garments. This silk-sewn-jade garment shows the early development of jade garments as well as development of the Nanyue culture.

In addition, three sets of bronze serial bells, thirty-six bronze vessels, thirty-six bronze mirrors, and three gold seals give visitors a glimpse of the ancient Nanyue Culture. The oldest and largest folding screen used in China is also here, as are two of the world's oldest bronze patterns for textile stamping.

Foreign articles excavated in the mausoleum indicate that Guangzhou was an ancient Marine Silk Road starting point. For example, there are five African elephant trunks, a silver box featuring Western Asian silver wares, and bronze incense burners and frankincense from Southeast Asia.

Admission Fee:	RMB 15
Opening Hours:	08:40 to 17:00
Recommended Time for a Visit:	One hour
Bus Route:	58

Night view of the pearl river:

