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Population

1.8 Million

Currency

Yuan

1 Yuan = 10 Jiao

1 Jiao = 10 Fen

Opening hours

09.00 – 18.00 Hrs for main department stores

Zhongshan Rd market stalls open all day and late into the night

Newspapers

China Daily europe.chinadaily.com.cn,

China Today www.chinatoday.com,

Xiamen Daily,

What's On Xiamen www.whatsonxiamen.com

Emergency numbers

Police: 110

Ambulance: 120

Fire: 119

Tourist information

Xiamen Tourist Information: 160 or: 111858

China National Tourist Office, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12-18

Zhenhai Rd

Tel: +86 592 202 3333

XIAMEN

PUBLISHING DATE: **2011-12-02** | COUNTRY CODE: **CN**

Contents: The City, Do & See, Eating, Cafes, Bars & Nightlife, Shopping, Sleeping, Essential Information, Maps

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This is a city almost unique in China, and has been recently voted the prettiest and cleanest city in the country. Xiamen is certainly amongst the most pleasant places in China, with a fine mix of city, cultural and beach attractions. Located on the south coast in Fujian Province, Xiamen is built on an island almost opposite Taiwan. With origins dating back 5,000 years, trade has been the lifeblood of Xiamen and the city has grown on the commerce from merchants, both Chinese and European, who used Xiamen as their “Gateway to China”.

THE CITY



© oldtasty

With a sense of real history, Xiamen has developed on the trade of merchants from around the world, attracted by the location at the mouth of the Julong (Dragon) River. Traders in previous centuries included those working in a less than legal fashion, commonly known as pirates, but all contributed to the success of a city which today is one of the more important commercial centers in the Peoples Republic. Whilst it is actually built on an island, Xiamen is linked to the mainland by way of a bridge. Just a ten minute ferry ride away is another island, that of Gulang Yu. Here, there is a remarkable collection of colonial buildings, mainly mansions built by traders from near and far – a testament to the global attraction of the city in days gone by. Today the city has the status of a Special Economic Zone, which offers the visitor great opportunities in shopping, whilst the local beach areas, the offshore islands and some nineteen public parks and botanical gardens make Xiamen a great city to explore and enjoy.



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DO & SEE



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Gulangyu Island

This is where the 19th century traders from foreign countries and China itself built their mansions, stemming from the freedom given to Xiamen to allow foreign trade through its port. It takes about five minutes with a ferry from Xiamen to reach the island.

Address: Gulangyu Island
Phone: +86 592 205 4022
Internet: www.visitxm.com
More Info: Ferry Wharf, Xiamen.

Gaungzhou Beach

Still on Gulang island, the western side has one of the best beaches in the area.

Address: Guangzhou Beach, Gulang Yu
Internet: www.visitxm.com

Nanputuo Monastery

The Nanputuo Buddhist Monastery is a very famous temple that dates from the Tang dynasty, some 1000 years ago. The mountain range behind the monastery is the Five Octagarian Peaks.

Address: Siming South Road, Siming
Phone: +86 592 208 8554
Internet: www.nanputuo.com

10,000 Rock Botanical (Wanshi) Garden

A park of winding paths and tropical plants. Over 5,000 species of plants are in the park.

Address: 25 Huyuan Road, Siming
Phone: +86 592 205 4022

Piano Museum

Located on Gulang Yu the museum has a collection of 70 pianos.

Address: Huangyou Road, Siming
Phone: +86 592 206 0238
More Info: Email: glygqbwg@sina.com

Huli Shan Fort

The fort was constructed in the late 1800's and includes in the construction material, glutinous rice. The Huli Shan Fort is famous for it's german-made 60 ton cannon, which is the best preserved coastal cannon in China.

Address: Huli Hill, Siming Nan Road
Phone: +86 592 11 1858

Underwater Sea World

This aquarium has a collection of more than 10,000 aquatic creatures. If you want, you have the opportunity to visit the feeding tank and hand-feed turtles and baby sharks.

Address: 2 Longtau Road, Gulangyu
Phone: +86 592 206 7668

Xiamen Beaches

Approximately 5 minutes south of the city is the long coastline and plenty of beaches for swimming and sunbathing.

Address: Huandao Road
Phone: +86 592 205 4022

100 Flower Village, Zhangzhou

Further afield in Zhangzhou, about 25 miles from Xiamen is the 100 Flower Village Some 20,000 flowers are in the village.

Address: Flower Garden, Zhangzhou
Phone: +86 592 205 4022

EATING



© hensever

Xiamen has a good mix of restaurants, with a high number of Italian pasta and pizza restaurants. However, not surprisingly, the Chinese cuisine is more abundant than any other in the city, and the range covers most of Chinas provinces, from Shanghai to Mongolia. With the Straits of Formosa and the South China Sea close by, it's not surprising that many of the local delicacies are sea food. The traditional method for crab is to cook the crustacean live which Xiamen chefs maintain is necessary to keep the flavor. Fujian restaurants often specialize in these crab dishes, and in fact there was once a "Fried Crab Street" Local dishes include: Ginger Duck, Fried Crab, Jellyfish Salad, Seasoned Oysters and Xiamen Fried Noodle.

Shuyou Seafood Restaurant

One of Xiamen's oldest restaurants. Their specialty are local seafood, which is seasonal. Oysters, eels, octopus and despite many concerns, sharks fin is still very popular in China.

Address: Houbin Bei Lu, Siming District
Phone: +86 592 509 8888
More Info: Located between Marco Polo and Sofitel hotels.

Nanputuo Vegetarian

The restaurant is in the monastery and serves some of the best vegetarian food in the region.

Address: Puzhao Lou, Nanputuo Temple
Phone: +86 592 208 7281

Tutto Bene

Italian and western cuisine, this was the first Italian restaurant in Xiamen and is one of the most popular.

Address: 1-16 Jianye Road
Phone: +86 592 504 6026

Indiano John's Samrat

Traditional Indian cuisine with modern creative additions.

Address: 69 Jiang Tou Bei Lu
Phone: +86 592 555 7699

The House

Californian cuisine (closed Monday) Western steaks and as expected in American style. Occasional wine tasting evenings, with invited guests from Californian vineyards.

Address: 10-1 Baihe Lu
Phone: +86 592 204 4358
Internet: www.thehousexm.com

Afanti

Xianjung (Northern) cuisine. Barbecue lamb. Big Plate Chicken. This is a very large plate of chicken, so an alternative can be the Small plate Chicken, which is still sufficient for four people. The barbecued lamb is often a starter.

Address: 170-15 Hexiang Donglu
Phone: +86 592 581 9220

CAFES



© kaysha

In the business district around Hubin Bei Lu Rd and the lakeside road of Yuandang Lu, there has been an upsurge of coffee shops and cafes, catering mainly for hotel guests at the nearby hotels, business people and

office workers.

The Coffee Club

Opposite the Yuandang Lake, this is a smart café with Wifi internet.

Address: Jixiang Jiayan, 1-10 Jianye Lu
Phone: +86 592 531 2246

Buon Appetito and Geo Geo Café

An Italian café and coffee bar serving pizza, coffee and cocktails. A nice position opposite the Yuandang lake. Wifi internet.

Address: Yun Dang Rd
Phone: +86 592 532 3111

Coffee Worm

A small coffee house with a warm homely atmosphere.

Address: 16-17 Lianyue Lu
Phone: +86 592 532 8556

Relax Café

This cozy café with wooden décor and comfy couches, is perfect for a few hours of relaxation, listening to jazz playing softly in the background. Café Relax offers a huge western menu and Wifi.

Address: 1 Yan Wu Lu
Phone: +86 592 219 1687

Judy's Café

Charming café with lots of different tea flavours.

Address: 79 Yongchun Road, Gulangyu
Phone: +86 592 219 7468
Internet: www.judyscafe.com.cn

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



© ponyboy101

Xiamen has more of the foreign style bars seen outside China than many of the cities in the country, apart from Shanghai and Beijing. Like the cafes, the bar scene has grown in the area around the big hotels on Jian Ye Lu and Huan Bei Lu Rd. As with all Chinese cities, there have been huge changes in the night entertainment scene. There are far more music clubs in the western style nowadays as well as the ubiquitous karaoke clubs.

Havana Restaurant and Bar

A Latin bar serving Mexican Tapas, Argentinean steaks and all things South American. Very popular with foreign visitors and expatriate workers.

Address: 2 Haiwan Park, Dongdu, Siming
Phone: +86 592 222 0313
Internet: www.havanaxiamen.com

Oasis Bar

The lobby bar at The Sofitel Hotel, has a library and cigar room.

Address: Sofitel Plaza, 19 Huan Bei Lu Rd
Phone: +86 592 507 8888
Internet: www.sofitelxiamen.com

Zhansi Bar

A bar in the style of a German beer hall, possibly as a tribute to the nationals who lived and worked in Xiamen in the 1800s. Beers are more European than Asian, as is the music.

Address: 10 North Hubin Rd
Phone: +86 592 531 1497

Bosom Dancing Hall

A real dancing nightclub playing all types of music. Friday night is rock, whilst Saturday is a softer atmosphere. The club is very crowded at weekends.

Address: 479 South Siming Rd
Phone: +86 592 208 5904

True Love

A large brightly lit entertainment club on the Yuandang road. Allows opportunities for karaoke on the lakeside.

Address: Yundang Road, Siming
Phone: +86 592 531 5666

La Bomba

On Jian Ye Lu, along the road from the Marco Polo Hotel. Also next door is The Elite club: Bomba has more of a local clientele, where Elite attracts more foreign customers.

Address: Yueming Building, 14 Jianye Road
Phone: +86 592 531 0707

SHOPPING



© blaineo

Xiamen is a great place for shopping, having been a foreign trading city for centuries. Today, the choice ranges from western designer shops through to the smallest back street market. All are conveniently located on or around Zhongshan Road. This is the road which runs from the Zhongshan Park to the harbor area and the Ferry Wharf. The main Zhongshan Road, which is partly traffic free, is lined with most of the well known clothing, footwear and general retail

names known globally. However, in the side streets, which wind and bend in a rough parallel to Zhongshan, there is a multitude of small shops selling foodstuffs, DVD and CD's, fresh market food, and small eating places. A good size bowl of fried noodles will cost 2 Yuan. The favorite items for sale in the region are art and crafts, spices and olive oils. Departmental stores sell almost everything and the most easily found are both on Zhongshan Road: The No 1 Department store (123 Zhongshan Rd) and the Hualin Department Store (No 1-4 Zhongshan Rd) Also at 123 Zhongshan Rd is The Musical Store selling classical musical instruments, CD's and music books. For general retail shopping there are three western supermarket outlets in the area, the most central being Carrefour. For fresh fish the market opens at 06.30 at Ding An road, again just off Zhongshan Rd, near the KFC and Trust-Mart.

SLEEPING



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The Mandarin

A complex of villas and pavilions in the Huli district.

Address: 101 Yeuhua Rd, Huli District, Xiamen
Phone: +86 592 602 3333
Internet: www.xmandarin.com (Chinese only)

Marco Polo Hotel

Located in a fine position opposite the Yuandang Lake. The hotel has all the facilities for business and leisure visitors.

Address: 8 Jianye Rd, Hubin Bei, Xiamen 361012
Phone: +86 592 509 1888
Internet: www.marcopolohotels.com

Lu Shan Hotel

Lu Shan Hotel centrally located mid range hotel.

Address: 102 Jia He Rd, Xiamen
Phone: +86 592 513 4726

Gulang Villa Hotel

This hotel is out of the main city centre, on the island of Gulang Yu, so gives the visitor something of a quieter stay.

Address: 14 Gusheng Road, Gulangyu, Xiamen 361002
Phone: +86 592 206 3280

City Hotel

City Hotel Xiamen is located in the center of the city, nearby several attractions such as Xiamen Botanical Garden, Nanputuo Temple, and Zhongshan Park. It has 448 guest rooms/suites, conference and banquet facilities and is also equipped with a shopping store, beauty salon and a teahouse.

Address: 16 Huyuan Road
Phone: +86 592 205 3333
Internet: www.cityhotelxm.com

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



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<http://www.forex.se/sv/Om-FOREX/Bankbutiker/>

Airport

The international airport is 7 kilometers from the city centre. To go from the airport to the city there is an Airport Shuttle Bus 6 Yuan: The journey takes 30 minutes.

Other bus services:

Airport to Ferry (Gulang Island)

Airport to Railway Station

Taxi: Journey time to City 20 minutes

Address: Xiamen Gaoqi International Airport

Phone: +86 592 570 6017

Internet: www.xiagc.com.cn/enweb

More Info: Email: contact@xiagc.com.cn

Car

Driving is on the right, and Xiamen has mostly good wide roads. The only narrow roads are around the old town and Zhongshan Road. In the business areas, and the commercial centre, the roads are, rarely too busy. Further into the city centre, the traffic is slightly heavier, especially around the peak times of 8am and

5pm.

Cars and bicycles are not allowed on the Gulang Yu Island

It is not possible to rent a self drive car in China, but a car can be rented with a driver. Apple Travel have a list of car rental prices.

Internet: www.appletravel.cn

Public transport

The easiest and most cost effective way around the city is by taxi.

Buses are good, frequent, extensive and cheap. An 'e card' can be bought at post offices which gives a 20% discount on the buses.

Taxi

Taxis are on demand and can be signaled in the street. The flag down fare is 8 Yuan and a fare into the city centre from the hotels in Jian Ye is 10 Yuan.

Post

Zhongshan Road

Open 09.00 – 16.00

Pharmacy

Signposted with a green cross, there are pharmacies selling both western and Chinese medicines. For non prescriptive remedies there are Watson stores in the main shopping areas.

Dentist

Yao Dental Clinic: Western trained dentists

Phone: +86 592 296 4399

Internet: www.yaodental.com

Telephone

Country code: +86

Area code: 0592

Electricity

220 v/50 Hz

