

# FUZHOU



The 2,000-year-old capital of Fujian Province, Fuzhou, is a remarkable city that has managed to hold on to its rich cultural heritage, whilst going through a period of rapid development, giving any visitor a true sense of the phrase 'East meets West'. As well as being home to some of the country's most ancient and interesting sights, thanks to its south-easterly position, Fuzhou is surrounded by stunning scenery and boasts some of the cleanest air in China, making it a great city in which to live.



## Teaching

Private school teachers in Fuzhou are expected to work Wednesday to Sunday from 15:00 until 20:30, leaving plenty of time to explore. Teachers receive a total of 5-6 weeks of paid holiday throughout the year, some of which takes place over national holidays and the rest to be used as suits.

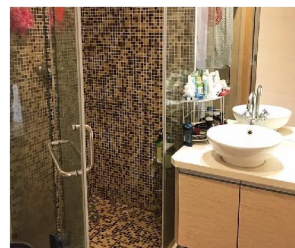


Classes tend to have around 10-15 students and teachers are given a detailed curriculum to follow, as well as continuous training and support.

Outside of teaching times, the school organises frequent social events and outings, giving teachers the perfect chance to mingle and get to know teachers from the schools' other branches in the city.

## Accommodation

All teachers working in Fuzhou are offered accommodation close to the teaching site as part of their placement. Teachers have their own room within a shared apartment, usually with one other person. All school accommodation is fully furnished, has a western toilet and is of a good standard. No rent is charged for the accommodation, but teachers are expected to pay their utility bills (approx. 350 RMB per month).



For those not wishing to live in school accommodation, the school offers a 2000 RMB housing allowance.

## Cost of Living

Fuzhou is a very affordable city in which to live and most teachers manage to save a large amount of their salary during their placement. Below is a breakdown of the average price of some commonly used items/services.

Item	RMB	Item	RMB
City Bus	1-2	Beer (shop bought)	3-5
Taxi (first 3 km)	10	Beer (at a bar)	15-30
New Bike	350+	Water	1.5
New E-Bike	2500+	Coke	3
Cheap meal	10-15	0.5kg fresh veg	3-5
Average meal	25-40	0.5kg pork	15
Expensive meal	100+	Gym (per year)	1000

## Attractions

Though virtually unheard of outside of China and not a top tourist destination, Fuzhou offers a wide range of sights and activities that are enough to keep the most frequent of visitors busy! Here is our top selection of sights to see in and around Fuzhou.

**Sanfang Qixiang:** Sanfang Qixiang, translated as **Three Lanes and Seven Alleys**, is said to be where the city's history and culture originated from. An area containing over 200 ancient folk houses from the Ming and Qing Dynasty, Sanfang Qixiang is widely regarded as an architectural museum of these Dynasties.

As the name states, the area is made up of three lanes and seven alleys, each with their own interesting attractions. The efforts of the local administration to preserve the historic architecture and monuments was so extraordinary, that it was awarded the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards in 2015.

**West lake Park:** Located at the foot of the Wolong Mountain, West Lake Park has a 1700-year long history and is widely regarded as the most well-preserved classical garden in Fuzhou. Known for its beautiful landscape and tranquillity, West Lake Park is home to a number of temples, halls and pavilions and provides a peaceful space for members of the public to relax, play chess or dance. It's a fantastic place to witness Chinese culture.



**XiChan Temple:** XiChan temple is one of Fuzhou's 5 ancient temples and is made up of 36 halls, pagodas and temples. Aside from its impressive architecture, XiChan is best known for its litchi trees, some of which are said to have been there for hundreds of years.

**GuShan Mountain:** One of Fuzhou's best-known attractions, GuShan Mountain is 925 meters tall and features numerous small attractions such as temples, trees, caves and waterfalls. Drum Hill, one of the mountain's main attractions, is an area of natural beauty and contains many historical sights and inscriptions from the Song and Qing Dynasties.

## Food

Food plays an important role in Chinese culture and that is no different in Fuzhou. Fuzhou cuisine forms part of the Min Cuisine and is known for its delicious sweet and sour sauces, used in meat, fish and vegetable dishes. Some of the city's most famous dishes are:

**Fo Tiao Qiang (Buddha Jumps over the Wall):** This is a traditional recipe, with a history dating back over 100 years. It uses a combination of over 20 ingredients, including fish, sea cucumber, chicken, pork and mutton, which are left to simmer in a Shaoxing wine jar to create a delicious flavour.



**Ji Tang Tun Hai Bang (Chicken Soup with Sea Clam):** Using clams from the city's Changlezhang harbour, this is a clear chicken soup that is said to be very nutritious.

**Li Zhi Rou (Litchi Pork):** This is one of Fujian's most traditional and famous dishes, which got its name from the fact that the colour shape and taste of the cooked pork is very similar to those of litchis. The pork is coated with a sauce made from ketchup, vinegar, white sugar and soy sauce, to form a delicious dish!



## Snacks

**Yu Wan (Fish ball):** The popularity of this dish is demonstrated by the old saying in Fuzhou 'if there are no fish balls, there is no dinner'. Made from the flesh of a carp, shark or freshwater fish, they are pounded into a soft paste and combined with flour before being made into small balls with a filling of muscles or shrimps.



The popularity of this snack means that it can be found all over, but some of the best can be found at the Yonghe Fish Ball Store in Ta Xiang lane.

**Chun Juan (Spring Roll):** This popular dish is made from ground rice, which is made into a thin paste and filled with vegetables, meat or seafood, before being deep fried in oil until golden and crispy on the outside and tender on the inside.

**Guang Bing (Qi Jiguang Cake):** This cake is named after a Chinese historical figure, who is held in great esteem by the local people. These unique cakes are round and have a hole in the middle, so they could be put on a string and hung around the neck.



**Yu Ni (Mashed Taros):** This is a very popular traditional Min dessert, made from taros. After being steamed, the taros are mashed and combined with white sugar, eggs and lard. After being steamed for an hour or so, this mixture is served with oil and minced Chinese dates, melon seeds and cherries.

## Entertainment



Though the nightlife in Fuzhou can't compare to that of the large metropolis of Shanghai, there is always something going on and its abundance of restaurants, bars, clubs and recreational areas mean you will never be bored!

Fuzhou is well-known for its hot springs and the International Golden Hot Spring Resort has come to be one of the most unique evening entertainment areas of the city. As well as being able to bath in the hot springs at night, dance shows and instrumental performances frequently take place here making it a popular hangout for locals and tourists!

Located in the car park of Fuzhou International Exhibition Centre, Pyramid Music Square, offers daily entertainment in the form of light music, discos, shows and performances from stars from different regions!

## Getting around the city

A metro system was opened in Fuzhou in 2016 and there is currently only one line running, with the rest under construction and due to open in 2020. Line 1 runs from Fuzhou South Railway Station to Xiangfeng Station.

Fuzhou also operates an extensive bus network, which is a very convenient and affordable way to get around the city. Tickets cost either 1 or 2 RMB, depending on which type of bus you take.

Taxi is another convenient way to get around and is often quicker than taking the bus. Taxis should always be marked and run on the meter and you can expect to pay 10 RMB for the first 3 kilometres and 2 RMB for each additional kilometre. Prices rise by 20% for travel between 11pm and 5am and if a journey is more than 8 kilometres, an extra 50% is charged for empty return.



## Travel

Fuzhou Railway Station is the transportation hub of both the city and the Province. It is connected with the national railway network and operates services to Beijing, Shanghai, Qingdao, Zhengzhou, Nanjing, Nanchang, Guiyang, Changsha, Hefei, Chengdu, Chongqing, and Shenzhen.

Since 2015, high-speed trains have been running to and from Beijing, Wuyishan, Wuyuan and Shanghai, drastically reducing travel time between the cities. The time it takes to reach some major cities is outlined below:

Fuzhou – Shanghai: 4 hrs 30

Fuzhou – Beijing: 9 hrs 30

Fuzhou – Nanjing: 6 hrs 30

Fuzhou – Qingdao: 10 hrs 30

Fuzhou – Chongqing: 13 hrs

Fuzhou also has an international airport (Fuzhou Changle International Airport (FOC)), which operates flights to around 55 cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Jinan, Chengdu, Xian, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Osaka.