Hefei 合肥
**Hefei** is the capital city of Anhui Province. Lying between the Yangtze River and Huaihe River.

Covering an area of 7,266 square kilometers (about 2,805 square miles), it is the key tourist city of the whole province and the best place to know about the brilliant Anhui culture.

It is a beautiful city with good surroundings - the Huaihe River flows to its north, to its south is Yangtze River, and to its south-east lies the Chaohu Lake with its expansive blue waters. It exemplifies the good climate to be found in the area having a mild climate with clearly defined seasons and moderate rainfall. The average annual temperature is 15.7°C (60.26°F). As is known, every city in China has a city tree and a city flower and, in the case of this city, the Yulan tree is its city tree and the sweet-scented osmanthus, pomegranate flower is its city flower.

If you are one of those people who regard food as their prime requirement, you should try the local delicious food and special cuisine which is on offer, whenever you pay a visit. Luzhou Roast Duck is the first recommended delicacy in the city and it tastes very good. Other special, high quality products will also satisfy your appetite such as Mabing (sesame cake), Honggao (baked cake), Cunjin (sesame cookie) and Baiqie (white sesame slices). Also, dumpling-making is a delicate and intricate process and, there are various shapes of dumplings that will excite and satisfy your appetite.

The city is located in the centre part of East China, and its transportation system is well-developed. With the whole city’s transportation system linked by airport, railway and highway, a solid transportation network is at your service. Due to its fast development in recent years, transportation within and around the city is very convenient, especially for tourists.
Climate

Its climate is characterized by a subtropical monsoon type with four distinct seasons. The average annual temperature is about 15.7 °C (60.2 °F), with a high temperature of 38 °C (100 °F) in summer and a low temperature of -10 °C (14 °F) in winter.

The temperature in spring (March to April) is quite warm, but is prone to fluctuation. The average temperature of summer (May to August) is about 28 °C (82 °F), not very hot compared with other cities in China, but it is also a rainy season. The plum rains - a period of unsettled weather with frequent, soaking rains - are a prominent feature in the summer of the city. Starting at the very beginning of June and ending at the end of July, it offers abundant rainfall for the place but causes some trouble for travel meanwhile. Do not forget to take your rain gear with you due to this special weather.

Compared with the other three seasons, autumn (August to October) may be the best time to have a visit, because the weather is quite favorable with crisp fall days. The winter (November to February) is a little bit cold with an average temperature of -10 °C (14 °F), so you will have to be prepared with scarf and warm clothing when you go there.

Hefei METEN branch

Center 1: Mix city

Address: 4F, mix city shopping mall, conjunction of Xiyou Rd. and Qianshan Rd., Zhengwu district, Hefei city, Anhui province
Center 2: Baohe Wanda
Address: 2F, Wanda shopping mall, conjunction of Wuhu Rd. and Maanshan Rd., Baohe district, Hefei city, Anhui province
合肥市包河区马鞍山路与芜湖路交叉口万达广场二楼儿童馆内

Center 3: ID Mall center
Address: 3F-L325 ID MALL, conjunction of Ziyun Rd. and Luzhou Avenue., Binhu new district, Hefei city, Anhui province
合肥市滨湖新区庐州大道与紫云路路口 悦方IDMALL3F-L325
Transportation

Air

Hefei Xinqiao International Airport is about 31.8 km (20 miles) from the city center. It is an important airport, linking this city with many cities home and abroad. Flights to domestic cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and flights to many tourism cities such as Lijiang, Guilin and so on can be found in the airport. Direct international flights to some Asian cities such as Taipei, Singapore, Cheju, Hong Kong, Macau, Seoul, Bangkok and so on are operated from there.

Railways

Link you to Shanghai, Chengdu, Fuzhou, Shenzhen, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Guangzhou etc.
Anhui has 15 railways, and is run through by the Beijing-Shanghai Railway, Beijing-Kowloon Railway and Lianyungang-Lanzhou Railway. Other major trunk lines in the province include the Huainan-Wuhu Railway for transporting the coal of Huainan, the Nanjing-Tongling Railway which connects the cities in the industrial corridor on the southern bank of the Yangtze River, the Wuhu-Yingtan Railway cutting through the mountainous area of South Anhui, the Suixi-Fuyang, Fuyang-Huainan and Luohe-Fuyang railways connecting with the Beijing-Kowloon Railway at Fuyang, the Hefei-Jiujiang Railway connecting Anhui with Jiangxi and Hubei provinces, and the Xuanzhou-Hangzhou Railway, known as the "Second Passage in East China". The Tongling-Jiujiang Railway is a trunk line stretching along the Yangtze River from Shanghai at the eastern end to Wuhan at the western end. The Xi'an-Hefei Railway, one of the "Ten Key Projects of Western Development", and the "brand-new Lianyungang-Lanzhou Railway", which starts from Shanghai in the east and ends in Zhongwei of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in the west are important railways, with Hefei, Bengbu and Fuyang being key railway hubs.
**Attractions**

- **Feicui (Emerald) Valley**

The Feicui (Emerald) Valley, also known as the "Lovers' Valley", is situated at Shancha village of Tangkou town, Huangshan district. 6km long, it is the longest valley in Donghai of Huangshan Mountain.

The Emerald Valley, running along the terraced mountainside, leads up to the top of the mountains. It is strewn with glittering green pools in various shapes and sizes. With the constant change of light, the water changes its color into all shades of green, hence the name Emerald Valley.

The stream in the valley, named the Biyu (or Jade) Stream, rises in the Liandan, Shixin and Tiannu peaks. The valley is surrounded by cliffs and dotted with oddly shaped rocks and caves. The most interesting and evocative scenic spots include the Lion-Headed Rock, Clam Beach, Guantiandong Watching Sky Cave, Overlapping Jade Rock, Frolic Rock, Crawling Cave and Crane Dancing Rock.
But the real eye-catchers are those waters to be found in some 100 pools of different shapes and sizes. The riot of the waters' colors presents a kaleidoscopic scene. In addition, the waterfalls and bamboo forests add radiance and beauty to each other, producing a breathtaking effect.

❖ Lord Bao Park
Situated southeast of the old city of Hefei, this park was established to commemorate Bao Zheng (999-1062), a famous minister of the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127).
It has an open-air layout and mainly comprises the Temple of Lord Bao, Tomb of Lord Bao, Qingfeng Pavilion and Fuzhuang Yard.
Located on Xianghuadun Islet in the Baohe River, the Temple of Lord Bao was first constructed in 1066 in the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), being the earliest memorial temple of its kind either at home or abroad. It was placed under the key protection of Anhui Province in 1961.
The Tomb of Lord Bao on the southern bank of the picturesque Baohe River is the burial place of Bao Zheng, his wife and their offspring. The old cemetery is solemn and quiet. Qingfeng Pavilion is adjacent the Tomb of Lord Bao to the east and the Temple of Lord Bao to the west.
It was built to mark the 1,000th anniversary of the birth of Bao Zheng so as to carry forward the incorruptible and impartial spirit of Lord Bao and publicize the time-honored culture of Anhui. The central Song-style building, 42 meters high, has nine floors. From the top of the pavilion, visitors can obtain a splendid view of the beauty of the park and Hefei city.
The Fuzhuang Yard stands on the Baohe River. Surrounded by water, it seems to actually float on the surface, hence its name which means a floating yard. Fuzhuang Yard formerly known as Lord Bao's Academy is a Hulzhou-style garden complex, the best preserved in Hefei. Inside, we can find pavilions artificial hills, flowers, numerous birds, waterfalls and luxuriant plants.
Attractive Ancient Villages in Anhui Province: Xidi & Hongcun

Needless to say, Huangshan Mountain has long been the most popular tourist destination in Anhui Province. But the two ancient villages of Anhui Province, Xidi and Hongcun, are quietly gathering attention as scenic spots to visit during your time in the area. Both were listed as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO in 2000 and are perfect for anyone wanting to escape the hustle and bustle of China’s concrete jungles.

Although not far from each other, the two villages have their own specialties.

Hongcun Village, is often described as a village straight out of a Chinese painting. Xidi, on the other hand, has been labeled, “A village in the Peach Blossom Land (an ethereal utopia in Chinese literature where the people lead an ideal existence in harmony with nature, unaware of the outside world for centuries).” It is most famous for its exquisite street plan and magnificent ancestral temples.

It is possible to see both villages in a day, however, we would advise starting in Xidi, and then staying overnight in Hongcun. Entry to each village costs 104 RMB per person. To get to either Hongcun or Xidi you can take a bus from the long distance bus station in Tunxi or from Yixian bus station.

Hongcun Village

Hongcun lies at the northwestern corner of Yi County, Huangshan. With its overall layout,
Architectural form, decoration, and construction techniques, it retains the original features of Anhui-village-style buildings. This quaint little village rose to fame initially because of the movie Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.

Hongcun’s story began during the Northern Song Dynasty when the local people constructed an irrigation canal for both agriculture and daily use. The village itself is designed in the shape of an ox with the nearby Leigang hill being the head. The four bridges that cross Jiyin stream represent the legs and the houses act as the beasts body. The canals and waterways that run through the villages are its intestines with various lakes and ponds acting as other organs. Hongcun now preserves more than 140 ancient buildings of the Ming and Qing dynasties. Characterized by rhythmic space variation and tranquil alleys, the whole village reflects the pursuit of coexistence, unity and the harmony of man and nature. The village faithfully preserves elements that are typical of traditional southern Anhui ancient villages, including the surrounding environment, manmade waterways, architectural style, construction methods and materials, and decorative arts.

Xidi Village

Xidi’s construction began during the Northern Song Dynasty and it became prosperous during the early period of the Qing Dynasty. Xidi Village boasts a rich history of over 900 years. About 40
kilometers from Huangshan, it was originally a compact community of only people with the family name Hu. It now has 300 households and over 1,000 fulltime residents.

Black marble was primary resource for the original construction of the village. The most prominent building, the five-storey memorial arch supported on four pillars, was constructed during the Ming Dynasty and symbolizes the prominent status of the Hu Family. Many of the residencies are now open to the public, but do make sure to visit Lüfu Tang and Dafu Di with their magnificent courtyards and exquisite gardens. A rare find in modern day China.

**Food**

Anhui Cuisine is one of the famous 'Eight Cuisines' of China and in the capital, Hefei, the authentic flavors can be tasted. Due to its geographic advantage, it has assembled many of the surrounding areas' flavors but still maintains the flavor of ancient Luzhou Cuisine. Visitors to the city can still taste the four special dishes - Luzhou Roast Duck, Lord Bao Fish, Caocao Chicken, and Li Hongzhang Hodgepodge Cuisine.

**Lord Bao Fish** is a well-known dish. This fish was originally found in a moat called Lord Bao River; hence it got the name Lord Bao Fish. This cuisine is a traditional cold dish - tender meat and dark reddish crisp skin.

Caocao Chicken also called 'Xiaoyao Chicken' was said to have been liked by the Wei Emperor Caocao during the period of Three Kingdoms (220 - 420). The chicken is made with medicinal herbs, thus is good for health. These two dishes can be found in most restaurants in the city.
Li Hongzhang Hodgepodge Cuisine is also very delicious. It is said that this dish was an invention of the Li Hongzhang’s cook once when Li Hongzhang (a minister of Qing Dynasty who was in charge of foreign affairs) treated some American guests. The raw materials in this cuisine include holothurian (sea cucumber), sleeve-fish, chicken, ham, pig liver and spinach which are all braised with chicken soup, thus it smells fragrant and tastes delicious.

In addition, Honggao (baked cake), Mabing (sesame cake), Baiqie (white sesame slices), Cunjin (sesame cookie) are recommended high quality specialties, made with refined, shelled sesames along with choice white sugar, flour and sesame oil, and treated with a special technique. Crisp, sweet, and fragrant are these cookies' characteristics.