

Chengdu sweetens deal in visa-free visits

By HAO NAN
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The government of Chengdu recently released a series of incentives to attract more foreign transit tourists to use its 72-hour visa-free policy.

Visitors entitled to the policy can enjoy discounts at hotels and airport shopping areas as well as dedicated transit lounges and free transportation between airport terminals.

Buses are provided to commute from the airport to the most popular scenic spots such as Kuanzhai Alley, Jinli Ancient Street, Jinsha Site Museum and Temple of the Marquis of Wu.

The capital of southwest China's Sichuan province is the fourth city in China to offer foreign tourists a three-day visa-free stay following Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou.

The policy went into effect on Sept 1 last year. It permits citizens from 51 countries including the United States, Australia, Canada and Japan who have valid visas and flight tickets to a third country to spend three days in the city.

The 72-hour visa waiver also made Chengdu the first city in the western region of China to adopt the policy.

Li Zhiyong, deputy dean of the tourist institute at Sichuan University, said the move would contribute to a large increase in the number of overseas tourists and also stimulate the city's economic growth.

Last year, Chengdu reported a robust growth in its tourist industry.

Official statistics show that it received some 150 million tourists last year, an increase of 28 percent from 2012. Around 1.7 million came from abroad, an increase of 12 percent. Total revenue from tourism surpassed 133 billion yuan (\$21.7 billion).

Chengdu ranks the third in tourist facilities, management and services among 60 Chinese cities, according to a customer satisfaction survey released last year.

Famed for its history, culture, climate and cuisine, it is recognized by the National Tourism Administration as one of the nation's best destinations.

It also has the fifth observation site in China established by the United Nations World Tourism Organization to promote sustainable tourism.

The site gathers and reports data to measure the environmental, cultural, social and economic impacts of tourism based on the UNWTO's sustainable tourism indicators.

With the world's largest giant panda breeding and research center, it is a paradise for panda lovers.

The city is also a popular destination for those interested in China's cultural legacies. It is home to the remains of the Jinsha civilization that dates back more than 3,000 years.

Widely believed to have been the capital of the ancient Shu state, the site is hailed as one of the major archeological discoveries in China in the 21st century.

One of the Jinsha relics unearthed is a gold foil rendering of a divine solar bird. It is now used as the symbol of Chengdu and its local cultural heritage.

The city is also home to the Qingcheng Mountains and the Dujiangyan irrigation system. Qingcheng has long been recognized as the birthplace of Taoism, China's ancient indigenous religion, while Dujiangyan is considered to be the oldest functioning water-control project in the world.

Diverse cuisine adds to the allure. The region has more than 6,000 flavorful dishes, often spicy, including the iconic Sichuan hotpot.

Transportation is also convenient in the city. Chengdu is the fourth-biggest air hub in China. Its Shuangliu airport serves some 70 international routes.

It now appeals to business visitors worldwide because of its growing importance in China's economy.

Forbes magazine forecasts the city will be the fastest growing in the world by 2020 and will become one of the country's economic powerhouses.

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It hosted the Fortune Global Forum last June, the first city in western China to hold the event.

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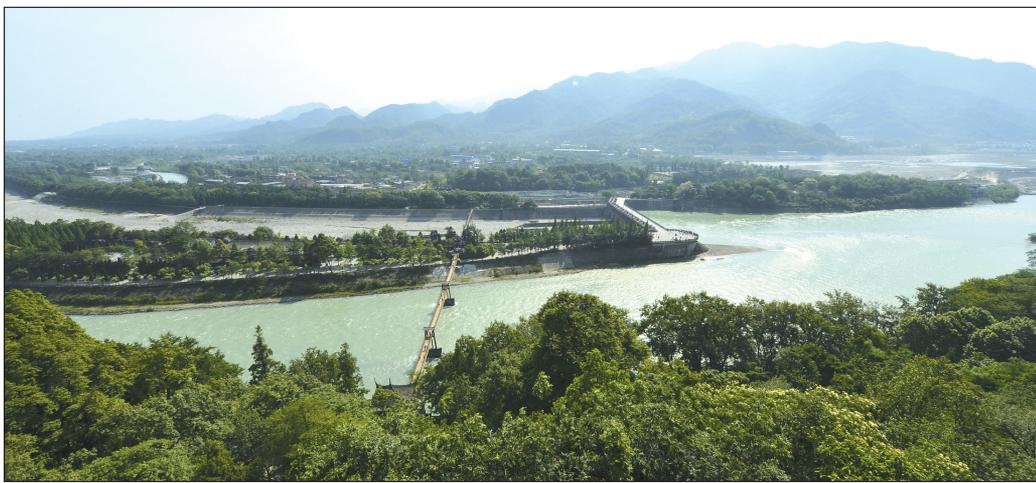
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It hosted the Fortune Global Forum last June, the first city in western China to hold the event.



Chengdu is home to the world's largest giant panda breeding and research center, a high point for many tourists.

PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Work began on Dujiangyan in northwest Chengdu in AD 256. Today it is the oldest functioning water control project in the world.



The popular attraction Sichuan Opera features fire breathing and faces that change with a flick of the hand.

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Villas for Rent in Beijing

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| Airport Expressway Area
4Br. 324sqm ¥ 33,000
4+1Br. 470sqm ¥ 40,000 | Australian Garden
4Br. 500sqm ¥ 35,000 | LA GRANDE VILLA
4Br. 270sqm ¥ 20,000
4Br. 380sqm ¥ 33,000 | Jing Shun Road Close to WAB Beijing Riviera
4Br. A 402sqm ¥ 48,000
4Br. B 405sqm ¥ 48,000 | 4+1Br. C 294sqm ¥ 40,000
3Br. D 251sqm ¥ 32,000
4Br. 280sqm ¥ 36,000
6Br. 430sqm ¥ 48,000 | Orchid Garden
4Br. 275sqm ¥ 29,000
4Br. 310sqm ¥ 32,000
4Br. 400sqm ¥ 36,000 | Grand Hills
4Br. C 502sqm ¥ 55,000 | 4Br. N 558sqm ¥ 65,000
6Br. J 800sqm ¥ 120,000 | Beijing Eurovillage
4Br. 280sqm ¥ 28,000
4Br. 400sqm ¥ 30,000 | Le Leman Lake Villa
4Br. A 682sqm ¥ 50,000
4Br. B 578sqm ¥ 45,000
4Br. C 516sqm ¥ 40,000
3Br. E 315sqm ¥ 20,000 | 4Br. C9 356sqm ¥ 38,000
4Br. 229sqm ¥ 23,000
3Br. A 250sqm ¥ 30,000
4Br. C 300sqm ¥ 33,000
5Br. F 400sqm ¥ 48,000 | 3Br. 162sqm ¥ 16,000
4Br. 229sqm ¥ 23,000
4Br. 475sqm ¥ 50,000
3Br. A 250sqm ¥ 30,000
4Br. C 300sqm ¥ 33,000
5Br. F 400sqm ¥ 48,000 | Rose and Ginkgo Villas
4Br. 350sqm ¥ 36,000
4Br. 475sqm ¥ 50,000 | Courtyards for Rent
4Br. 320sqm ¥ 60,000 | Gulou Courtyards
3Br. 230sqm ¥ 30,000 | Wangfujing Courtyard
4Br. 320sqm ¥ 35,000 |
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River Garden Villa(F) - 裕京花园
ID: 00131 400sqm, 5Br/4Ba ¥50,000
type F, detached, big garden, good sunlight

Yosemite (C4) - 优山美地
ID: 00260 424sqm, 4Br/4Ba ¥45,000
type C4, semi-detached, beautiful garden

Central Park (I-IV)

2Br. 138sqm ¥ 18,000	3Br. 170sqm ¥ 18,000	4Br. 270sqm ¥ 33,000	2Br. 150sqm ¥ 15,000	3Br. 240sqm ¥ 33,000	Mixion Residence	3Br. 150sqm ¥ 17,000	Palm Springs	3Br. 199sqm ¥ 20,000
3Br. 148sqm ¥ 23,000	4Br. 264sqm ¥ 42,000	2Br. 183sqm ¥ 19,000	3Br. 183sqm ¥ 19,000	4Br. 324sqm ¥ 43,000	1Br. 131sqm ¥ 14,000	4Br. 250sqm ¥ 35,000	2Br. 138sqm ¥ 18,000	4Br. 250sqm ¥ 30,000
3Br. 199sqm ¥ 28,000	4Br. 286sqm ¥ 45,000	2Br. 210sqm ¥ 24,000	4Br. 210sqm ¥ 24,000	3Br. 180sqm ¥ 23,000	3Br. 180sqm ¥ 23,000	3Br. 180sqm ¥ 23,000	3Br. 180sqm ¥ 23,000	Beijing Golf Palace
4Br. 265sqm ¥ 43,000	2Br. 171sqm ¥ 18,000	3Br. 182sqm ¥ 23,000	4Br. 280sqm ¥ 28,000	3Br. 170sqm ¥ 12,000	3Br. 205sqm ¥ 26,000	3Br. 205sqm ¥ 26,000	3Br. 215sqm ¥ 28,000	3Br. 270sqm ¥ 33,000
4Br. 465sqm ¥ 90,000	2Br. 135sqm ¥ 13,000	3+1Br. 249sqm ¥ 31,000	Upper East Side - Binhe	3Br. 112sqm ¥ 12,000	3Br. 245sqm ¥ 23,000	4Br. 370sqm ¥ 45,000	4Br. 370sqm ¥ 45,000	4Br. 310sqm ¥ 56,000
2Br. 140sqm ¥ 20,000	3Br. 185sqm ¥ 25,000	Shimao Int'l Center	3Br. 206sqm ¥ 25,000	4Br. 220sqm ¥ 33,000	4Br. 305sqm ¥ 32,000	Park Avenue	2Br. 173sqm ¥ 19,000	Boya Garden
3+1Br. 171sqm ¥ 28,000	2Br. 129sqm ¥ 14,000	1+1Br. 136sqm ¥ 11,000	5Br. 390sqm ¥ 42,000	2Br. 166sqm ¥ 18,000	2+1Br. 265sqm ¥ 46,000	2Br. 173sqm ¥ 19,000	3Br. 170sqm ¥ 15,000	2Br. 130sqm ¥ 12,000
3Br. 188sqm ¥ 28,000	3Br. 192sqm ¥ 28,000	1Br. 107sqm ¥ 15,000	Upper East Side - Andersen	3Br. 196sqm ¥ 20,000	3Br. 350sqm ¥ 53,000	3Br. 173sqm ¥ 23,000	3Br. 170sqm ¥ 15,000	3Br. 170sqm ¥ 15,000
3+1Br. 220sqm ¥ 38,000	Lido Area	1+1Br. 136sqm ¥ 11,000	2Br. 150sqm ¥ 19,000	4Br. 226sqm ¥ 22,000	Beijing SOHO Residences	3Br. 205sqm ¥ 25,000	4Br. 228sqm ¥ 22,000	4Br. 228sqm ¥ 22,000
2Br. 138sqm ¥ 20,000	Richmond Park	3Br. 192sqm ¥ 28,000	3Br. 234sqm ¥ 28,000	Chevalier	2+1Br. 234sqm ¥ 25,000	Chaoyang Park Area	3Br. 250sqm ¥ 33,000	Park Apartment
3Br. 205sqm ¥ 19,000	2Br. 120sqm ¥ 12,000	Lido East Side	4Br. 288sqm ¥ 33,000	3+1Br. 220sqm ¥ 22,000	2+1Br. 290sqm ¥ 35,000	Greenlake Place	4Br. 290sqm ¥ 41,000	3+1Br. 245sqm ¥ 31,000
3Br. 253sqm ¥ 28,000	3Br. 188sqm ¥ 16,000	2Br. 188sqm ¥ 16,000	Upper East Side	4Br. 296sqm ¥ 31,000	Seasons Park	Greenlake Place	4Br. 370sqm ¥ 48,000	3+1Br. 265sqm ¥ 34,000
2Br. 150sqm ¥ 14,000					2Br. 128sqm ¥ 13,000	Greenlake Place	4Br. 650sqm ¥ 120,000	Parkview Tower
						4Br. 298sqm ¥ 30,000	Oceanwide Int'l	4Br. 300sqm ¥ 33,000

Central Park (II) - 新城国际
ID: 02372 171sqm, 3Br/2Ba ¥29,000
phase II, high floor, garden view, good sunlight

SanlitunSOHO - 三里屯SOHO
ID: 06986 249sqm, 3+1Br/3Ba ¥31,000
high floor, south facing, good view, value for money

Genertime Int'l Center - 通用国际中心
ID: 20820 485sqm, 4Br/3Ba ¥55,000
high floor, garden view, big balcony, good sunlight

Beijing SOHO Residences - SOHO北京公馆
ID: 03212 290sqm, 2+1Br/2Ba ¥35,000
garden view, good sunlight, value for money

Four Seasons
ID: 06853 265sqm 2+1Br/2Ba ¥46,000
high floor, garden view, floor heating, value for money

Centrium Residence
ID: 39262 350sqm 4Br/4Ba ¥70,000
penthouse, south facing, open kitchen, floor heating

Beijing Riviera (A) - 香江花园
ID: 07344 530sqm, 6Br/4Ba ¥53,000
type A, detached, big garden, floor heating

Upper East Side - 阳光上东
ID: 15640 260sqm, 3Br/2Ba ¥32,000
south facing, river view, big balcony

Shimao Gongyuan - 世茂宫园
ID: 40219 210sqm, 3Br/2Ba ¥30,000
south facing, nice balcony, open kitchen

Upper East Side - 阳光上东
ID: 03136 189sqm, 3Br/2Ba ¥24,000
high floor, south facing, lake view, big balcony

Somerset Fortune Garden - 福景苑
ID: 40208 102sqm, 1Br/1Ba ¥17,000
high floor, nice balcony, good sunlight

Park Avenue - 公园大道
ID: 03136 189sqm, 3Br/2Ba ¥24,000
high floor, south facing, lake view, big balcony

Beijing Golf Palace - 高尔夫公寓
ID: 05998 258sqm, 2+1Br/2Ba ¥35,000
1st floor, south facing, big balcony, value for money

Palm Springs
ID: 10668 192sqm 3Br/2Ba ¥26,500
high floor, garden view, good sunlight

Chateau Regency
ID: 40260 275sqm 3Br/2Ba ¥38,000
middle floor, good view, good sunlight

Cathay View (C) - 观塘
ID: 04959 470sqm, 5Br/4Ba ¥48,000
type C, detached, big garden, open kitchen, floor heating

Shimao International Center
ID: 10194 62sqm studio/1Ba ¥11,000
high floor, nice balcony, floor heating

Shimao Gongyuan - 世茂宫园
ID: 40219 210sqm, 3Br/2Ba ¥30,000
south facing, nice balcony, open kitchen

Beijing SOHO Residences - SOHO北京公馆
ID: 03212 290sqm, 2+1Br/2Ba ¥35,000
garden view, good sunlight, value for money

Shimao International Center
ID: 10194 62sqm studio/1Ba ¥11,000
high floor, nice balcony, floor heating

Shimao International Center
ID: 10194 62sqm studio/1Ba ¥11,000
high floor, nice balcony, floor heating

Rits Garden - 丽嘉花园
ID: 40499 600sqm, 5Br/3Ba ¥45,000
corner house, big garden, value for money

Shimao International Center
ID: 10194 62sqm studio/1Ba ¥11,000
high floor, nice balcony, floor heating

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ID: 10194 62sqm studio/1Ba ¥11,000
high floor, nice balcony, floor heating

Orchid Garden - 卓锦万代
ID: 01082 310sqm, 4Br/3Ba ¥32,000
townhouse, big garden, floor heating

Shimao International Center
ID: 10194 62sqm studio/1Ba ¥11,000
high floor, nice balcony, floor heating

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Shimao International Center
ID: 10194 62sqm studio/1Ba ¥11,000
high floor, nice balcony, floor heating

Rose and Ginkgo - 龙湖锦澜山
ID: 02265 350sqm, 4Br/3Ba ¥40,000
townhouse, beautiful garden, two kitchens, floor heating

Shimao International Center
ID: 10194 62sqm studio/1Ba ¥11,000
high floor, nice balcony, floor heating

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