

commemorate Guan Yu, a famous general during the Three Kingdoms period (220-280), with an area of over 2,130 square meters. The temple was first constructed in 1603, the 31st year of the Wanli reign period of the Ming Dynasty, and was destroyed in the war time and again. Rebuilt in 1862, the first year of the Tongzhi reign period of the Qing Dynasty, it is now a key historical monument under the protection of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Tel: 0773-8221188

Admission: 10 yuan

Opening hours: 08:00-17:30
 It needs about 30 minutes to take a tour of the temple.

Transport: This temple is next to Confucian Temple, so please refer to Confucian Temple for transportation.

Hunan Guild Hall

In Jixiang Street of the Gongcheng County seat, Hunan Guild Hall was first constructed in 1872, the 11th year of the Tongzhi reign period of the Qing Dynasty, with the funds collected by the Association of Sanxiang Fellow Townsmen. It covers an area of over 1,800 square meters and its floor space comes to 1,420 square meters. Hunan Guild Hall consists of a gate tower, a stage, a main hall

and chambers on both sides, and is the best preserved of the four major guild halls in Gongcheng County (Guangdong, Hunan, Fujian and Jiangxi guild halls). Thanks to its elegant shape and abundant carved ornaments, it enjoys a reputation of a "beautiful flower." Now it is a key historical monument under the protection of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The structures of the gate tower and stage of Hunan Guild Hall are unusual, with the whole plane being protruding. The gate tower is in the front and the stage in the back, echoing with each other, which reflect the typical characteristics of the architectural structures of the areas south of the Five Ridges, a rarely seen ancient architecture in Guangxi.

Zhou Wei Shrine

Located in Jixiang Street in the county seat, Zhou Wei Shrine is adjacent to Hunan Guild Hall. The shrine was first constructed in 1478, the 14th year of the Chenghua reign period of the Ming Dynasty to commemorate Zhou Wei, an honest and upright official of the Song Dynasty and a native of Gongcheng. It was rebuilt in 1723, the first year of the Yongzheng reign period of the Qing Dynasty.

Zhou Wei Shrine consists of a stage, a gate tower, a front hall, a rear hall and chambers on the right and left, with a total area of over 1,600 square meters. Of them the gate tower, the main structure of the shrine, was constructed so ingeniously. Over 1,000 pieces of hard wood were joined with each other by joints of tenons and mortises; and five-layer *dou gong* (bracket sets) are upturned, plus meticulously built eaves, elegant ornaments on the ridges and beautiful patterns. The gate tower has a gabled structure, decorated with lifelike clay sculptures of

flowers, birds, insects, fish and animals. The eaves are made of square tiles, with green pattern of the Chinese character "寿" (meaning "longevity"). Copper bells are hung on the four corners of the gate tower. When the wind blows, the bells produce a clear and pleasant sound. The gate tower is in the shape of a honeycomb. When an air current goes through, it gives out a sound to frighten away all swallows and birds to prevent the gate tower from being damaged by insects and birds. Hence local people call it the "Bee Tower."

A painting in Zhou Wei Shrine is worth seeing. *The Painting of Plum Blossom Mountain*, over 500 meters long, was drawn in the Qianlong reign period of the Qing Dynasty, on which there are over 1,000 figures, representing how the ancestors of the Yao people did farm work, woven cloth, went fishing and hunting, and held sacrificial rites.

Peach Blossom in Daling Hill



Peach Blossom in Daling Hill



Tel: 0773-8221188

Admission: 15 yuan

(including Hunan Guild Hall)

Opening hours: 08:00-17:30

Peach Blossom Garden in Daling Hill

Located in Xiling Township of the Gongcheng Yao Autonomous County, Daling Hill used to be a stone hill, without any grasses and trees. Later villagers dug pits, covered it with soil and grew peach trees all over the hill. In spring, peach trees are in full bloom, turning Daling Hill into a sea of colorful flowers. The peach trees in the hill are good in variety, featuring elegant trees, many flower buds, fresh flower colors and a long flowering period. They have become a new tourist item of Gongcheng. In late February every year when peach trees are in full bloom, Gongcheng holds the "Peach Blossom Festival."

Early spring is the best season to visit Gongcheng. Tourists need to go there by tourist bus.

Ping'anqiao in Ping'an Township shows the special characteristics of south China. In both Ping'anqiao and Daling Hill, the Happy Village Family Travel Agency offers various services, including board and lodging.

Xing'an Scenic Area

Xing'an County is about 60 kilometers north of Guilin. Cat Mountain, main peak of Yuecheng Ridge, is the headstream of the Lijiang River. With an elevation of 2,142 meters, Cat Mountain is the highest peak in south China. First constructed in the Qin Dynasty (221-207B.C.), the Ling Canal in the county seat of Xing'an is a great water conservancy project in ancient China. In 1934 when the Red Army crossed the Xiangjiang River to go northward, Xing'an County was the main battlefield.

Ling Canal

As a key historical monument under state protection, the Ling Canal



Ling Canal - Lijia Bridge

totals 34 kilometers long, and its principal project is located in the county seat of Xing'an. The canal was first constructed in 214B.C. After Emperor Qin Shihuang (the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty) had unified the six states, he sent troops to cross the Five Ridges to conquer south China. Then the Ling Canal was constructed to transport the military supplies, with a history of over 2,200 years. The Ling Canal, the Dujiangyan Irrigation System and the Zhengguo Canal are known as the three major water conservancy projects of ancient China. As one of the oldest canals in China, the Ling Canal displays the advanced scientific and technological level of China

Ling Canal



Ling Canal

in building water conservancy projects.

The Ling Canal, which connects the Xiangjiang River with the Lijiang River, and links the Yangtze River system and the Pearl River system, was an important water transport hub between the Chu and Yue states and promoted the economic and cultural exchanges between the areas south of the Five Ridges and Central Plain in ancient China.

The Ling Canal consists of Large and Small balances, Ploughshare, Sluicing Balances, South and North Canals, Sluice Gates, Qin Embankment, etc.

Large and Small Balances

As two structures in the shape of "人," these two balances are actually overflow dams built on the Xiangjiang River to resist against the shock power of water currents and divert water. The large one is 344 meters long, and the small one is 130 meters long, 2 to 2.4 meters high, and 17 to 23 meters wide. In the flood season, the two dams lead floodwater to go into the ancient watercourses of the Xiangjiang River; and at the other times, they block the river water and lead it to the canal to guarantee that the water in the canals are deep enough for riding boats. They play the role of balancing

the water level, hence the name "Balance."

Ploughshare

The place where Large Balance meets Small Balance is in the shape of a ploughshare, hence the name. Ploughshare is surrounded by stone embankments on three sides, and links with Large and Small balances on one side. Together with large and small balances, it divides the water from the Xiangjiang River into two parts: 70 percent of the water goes into the Xiangjiang River, and 30 percent of the water runs into the Lijiang River.

South and North Canals

The two canals are the passages linking the Xiangjiang and Lijiang rivers. The South Canal is connected with the Lijiang River, and the North Canal, with the Xiangjiang River. In ancient China, people went to the South Canal by the North Canal and Ploughshare — a waterway for the people to travel from Hunan to Guangxi by ship.

Sluicing Balances

The sluicing balances are built to release floodwater twice, one sites in North Canal and two sites in South Canal.

Sluice Gates

There are altogether 36 sluice gates built along the

Ling Canal. The sluice gates mainly play the role of regulating the water level and guaranteeing the normal navigation of ships.

Tel: 0773-6221913

Admission: 30 yuan

Opening hours: 08:00-17:30

Guilin Merryland

Lying by Linghu Lake in Xing'an County, and three kilometers from the county seat, Merryland is the largest theme park in Guangxi. With a total investment of two billion yuan, it integrates sightseeing, leisure and holiday facilities, including Merryland Theme Park, a golf club, Merryland Resort, and Forest Village.

Merryland Theme Park is composed of several scenic areas: China Town, the Western Area of the United States, Fantasy World, Pirate Village, South Pacific Ocean, Harbor On-water Amusement Park, etc.

The main architectural structure in China Town is the Great Wall, and the main recreational facilities include computer-controlled Rapid Movements, Music Carriages, etc.

The recreational items in the Western Area of the United States are: Going boating along rapids, cowboys show, crack gunners, a small pasture, etc. The simulated Grand Canyon in Colorado in the United States is 400 meters long, with lots of



Guilin Merryland

rapids and whirlpools created by high-tech means. Tourists on a kayak will drift down the man-made river, bumping all the way.

Fantasy World consists of the ghost house, remote-controlled boats, crazy buses, and the Happy Theater. Songs and dances of different ethnic groups all over the world are performed at the Happy Theater regularly everyday. The theater can hold 1,000 tourists, and has amusement rooms and toy rooms for children.

In Pirate Village, tourists can find a sea rover, a market by the harbor, and wine buckets. The sea rover often attracts lots of tourists. Hung in the air 17 meters from the ground, the sea rover keeps swaying, with 140° at maximum, and tourists can experience the life in the midst of a raging storm.

In South Pacific Ocean Area, tourists can enjoy the foreign scenery, customs and lifestyle, such as bright sunshine, sea beaches, tropical fish, coconut trees, shells, songs sung by enthusiastic girls in praise of the ocean, hula (a Polynesian dance), and so on. Tourists can also go surfing here. When an airship rushes down from a place over 10 meters above the ground, it will throw up glittering fan-shaped foams, creating a magnificent and unusual sight.

Harbor On-water Amusement Park features European-style landscapes, and the main recreational project here is bungee jumping.

By the Linghu Lake, Forest Village is a comprehensive tourism area combining a recreational and service facilities, consisting of wooden houses, campsite area and a forest amusement ground. In the forest amusement ground, tourists can find thunderbolt speedy vehicles, man-made grass-sliding land, climbing facilities, small and quiet paths for lovers, Camellia Valley and elegant Matchmaker Pavilion. On Linghu Lake, there is the longest wind-and-rain bridge of the Dong people in the country, 108 meters in length. The bridge was built with tenons, devoid of nails, adding radiance and beauty to the gaily-painted pleasure boat.

Tel: 0773-6229999

Admission: 120 yuan

Opening hours: 09:00-17:30

Cat Mountain

As the main peak of Yuecheng Ridge, Cat Mountain is located in Xing'an County, with an elevation of 2,142 meters and known as No.1 peak in south China. Surrounded with a sea of clouds, this towering and magnificent moun-

Cat Mountain



tain has dense forests and is famed as a storm area in China. Many rivers, such as the Lijiang and Zijiang rivers, originate from Cat Mountain. Now it is a national nature reserve.

The main peak of Cat Mountain

Encircled by boundless clouds all the year round, it is the best place for tourists to watch sunrise, snow, clouds and mist. The weather in Cat Mountain is always changeable. A local saying goes: "People in the hill experience four seasons in a day; and the weather is not the same within 10 li (one li = 0.5 kilometer)."

The origin of the Lijiang River

The origin of the Lijiang River is located in an ancient forest of Chinese hemlocks, where tourists may stop to appreciate the headstream of the magnificent Lijiang River.

Laoshanjie

When the Red Army passed here on the Long March, Lu Dingyi, a senior Red Army soldier, wrote an article titled "Laoshanjie." The site has got its fame since then.

Ten-Li Grand Canyon

Lying at the foot of Cat Mountain near a Yao village, the canyon is narrow and grows towering ancient