



# Hénán

POPULATION: 100 MILLION

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## Best Places to Stay

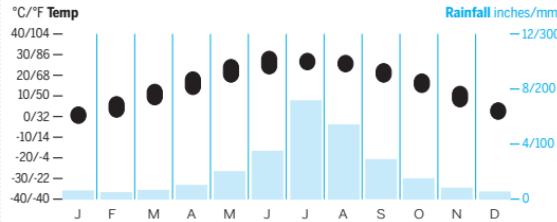
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## Why Go?

Affluent Chinese roll their eyes at the mention of impoverished and land-locked Hénán (河南), yet the province's heritage takes us back to the earliest days of Chinese antiquity. Ancient capitals rose and fell in Hénán's north, where the capricious Yellow River (Huáng Hé) nourished the flowering of a great civilisation. Hénán is home to China's oldest surviving Buddhist temple and one of the country's most astonishing collections of Buddhist carvings, the Lóngmén Caves. There is also the Shàolín Temple, that legendary institution where the martial way and Buddhism found an unlikely but effective alliance. Hénán's inability to catch up with the rest of the land helps explain why the unusual village of Nánjiēcūn still sees a future in Maoist collectivism. Hénán is also home to China's oldest settlement of Jews, which established itself in the excellent walled town of Kaifēng.

## When to Go

### Zhèngzhōu



**April** Wángchéng Park in Luòyáng is a blaze of floral colour during the Peony Festival.

**June** For trips to cool Guōliàngcūn up in the Ten Thousand Immortals Mountains.

**September & October** Catch the lovely and fleeting north China autumn.



## Hénán Highlights

1 Rediscover communism with Chinese characteristics at **Nánjiècūn** (p406)

2 Fathom the martial mysteries of Shaolin boxing at the **Shàolín Temple** (p407)

3 Seek enlightenment among the carved Bodhisattvas at the **Lóngmén Caves** (p412)

4 Take a trip back in time to **Kaifeng** (p415) and engage in some adventurous snacking at the night market

5 Hide away in cliff-top **Guōliàngcūn** (p414) – but don't forget your sketchpad

6 Explore China's oldest Buddhist shrine: the **White**

**Horse Temple** (p413) outside Luoyang

7 Catch Luoyang in full bloom at the annual **Peony Festival** (p409) in April

The first archaeological evidence of the Shang period (1700–1100 BC) was unearthed near Anyang in northern Henan. Yet it is now believed that the first Shang capital, perhaps dating back 3800 years, was at Yanshi, west of modern-day Zhengzhou. Around the mid-14th century BC, the capital is thought to have moved to Zhengzhou, where its ancient city walls are still visible.

Henan again occupied centre stage during the Song dynasty (AD 960–1279), but political power deserted it when the government fled south from its capital at Kaifeng following the 12th-century Juchen invasion. Nevertheless, with a large population on the fertile (although periodically flood-ravaged) plains of the unruly Yellow River, Henan remained an important agricultural area.

In 1975 Henan's Banqiao Dam collapsed after massive rainfall, leading to a string of other dam failures that resulted in the deaths of 230,000 people. In the 1990s a scandal involving the sale of HIV-tainted blood led to a high incidence of AIDS in a number of Henan villages.

### Climate

Henan has a warm-temperate climate: dry, windy and cold (average temperature -2°C in January) in winter, hot (average temperature 28°C) and humid in summer. Rainfall increases from north to south and ranges from 60cm to 120cm annually; most of it falls between July and September.

### Language

The lion's share of Henan's 93 million inhabitants speak one of nearly 20 subdialects of Zhongyuán Huà, itself a dialect of Northern Mandarin. Two of 15 dialects of Jin, a distinct language or simply a dialect of Mandarin (linguists wrangle), are found in northern Henan.

### Getting There & Around

Henan is that rarity in China: a province in which travellers can get from point A to point B (inside or outside the province) with ease. Zhengzhou is a major regional rail hub, and expressways laden with comfy express buses run parallel to rail lines and stretch into southern parts of the province.

Zhengzhou is the main hub for flying to/from Henan. Luoyang has a smaller airport, but it's recommended that you use Zhengzhou.

## Zhengzhou

郑州

2,037,100 / POP 2 MILLION

Despite a history reaching back to the earliest chapters of Chinese history, the provincial Henan capital of Zhengzhou is a rapidly modernising city with few relics from its ancient past (courtesy of the Japanese air force, which bombed the city flat). Most travellers are here en route to somewhere else and Zhengzhou largely serves as a major transport hub and access point for the Shaolin Temple and the offbeat Maoist collective of Nanyang.

### Sights

#### Hénan Provincial Museum MUSEUM

(河南省博物馆; Hénan Shèng Bówùguǎn; 8 Nongye Lu; audio tour Y30, deposit Y300 or your passport; 8.30am–6pm) The excellent collection here ranges from the awesome artistry of Shang-dynasty bronzes (search out the stirring 'Bronze *bu* with beast mask motif'), oracle bones and further relics from the Yin ruins in Anyang, to gorgeous Ming and Qing porcelain specimens. The dioramas of Song-dynasty Kaifeng and the magnificent, and now obliterated, Tang-dynasty imperial palace at Luoyang serve to underscore that the bulk of Henan's glorious past is at one with Nineveh and Tyre. Captions are in Chinese and English.

### Yellow River

RIVER

(黄河; Huáng Hé; admission Y30; 6.30am–sunset) The river lies 25km north of town; bus 16 (Y5) goes there from Erma Lu, north of the train station. The road passes near Huayuankou village, where in April 1938 Kuomintang general Chiang Kaishek blew

## PRICE INDICATORS

The following price indicators are used in this chapter:

### Sleeping

\$	less than Y200
\$\$	Y200 to Y500
\$\$\$	more than Y500

### Eating

\$	less than Y40
\$\$	Y40 to Y100
\$\$\$	more than Y100

a dyke to flood Japanese troops. This desperate, ruthless tactic drowned about one million Chinese people and left another 11 million homeless and starving.

**FREE** **Shang City Walls** CITY WALL RUINS  
(商代城墙遗址; Shāngdài Chéngqiáng Yǐzhǐ) Zhèngzhōu's eastern outskirts are marked by long, high mounds of earth, the remains of the old city walls, which can be clambered upon for walks.

**FREE** **Chénghuáng Temple** TAOIST TEMPLE  
(城隍庙; Chénghuáng Miào; Shāngcheng Lu; ☎9am-6pm) Bustles with worshippers who leave its trees festooned with red ribbons.

**FREE** **Confucius Temple** TEMPLE  
(文庙; Wén Miào; 24 Dong Dajie; ☎8.30am-5pm) Massively restored; take bus 60 from 7 February Sq.

**Mao Zedong Statue** STATUE  
(毛泽东像; Máo Zédōng Xiàng) Standing like a triumphant throwback at the Jinshui Lu and Renmin Lu intersection, the imposing statue of Mao gesticulates to a tangled web of flyovers. Come here just before twilight for iconic 'the sun sets over Chairman Mao' photo ops.

**Sleeping**  
**Sofitel** HOTEL \$\$\$  
(索菲特国际饭店; Suōfēitè Guójí Fàndiàn; ☎6595 0088; www.sofitel.com; 289 Chengdong Lu; d incl breakfast Y2722, discounts of 40%; ☎✉) On balance, the five-star Sofitel may be more goodish four-star, but rooms are excellent. The funky atrium area bathes the cafe (with a popular afternoon-tea buffet), bar and restaurants below in natural light. There's also wi-fi access and free English maps from the concierge, swimming pool and health club.

**Express by Holiday Inn** HOTEL \$\$\$  
(中州快捷假日酒店; Zhōngzhōu Kuàijíe Jiàdiàn; ☎6595 6600; 115 Jinshui Lu; s & d Y988, ste Y1388, discounts of 40%; ☎✉) Linked to the Sofitel by a connecting walkway, this is a neat and snappy midrange option with a selection of modern rooms. Breakfast is included, and there's free broadband in business-class rooms and wireless connection in the lobby and dining room.

**Jīnjiāng Inn** HOTEL \$  
(锦江之星; Jīnjiāng Zhīxìng; ☎6693 2000; Erma Lu; s/d Y179) Modern and swish looking, with crisp, sharp and well-looked-

after rooms (work desks, flat-screen TVs) in a block set back from the road.

**Yǐngbīn Zhāodàisōu** GUESTHOUSE \$  
(迎宾招待所; Yǐngbīn Guest House; ☎6699 6858; 2nd fl, off ticket office No 1, train station; r Y30-120) Slap-bang in the train station with a highly affordable variety of sparsely furnished rooms and an internet cafe right next door.

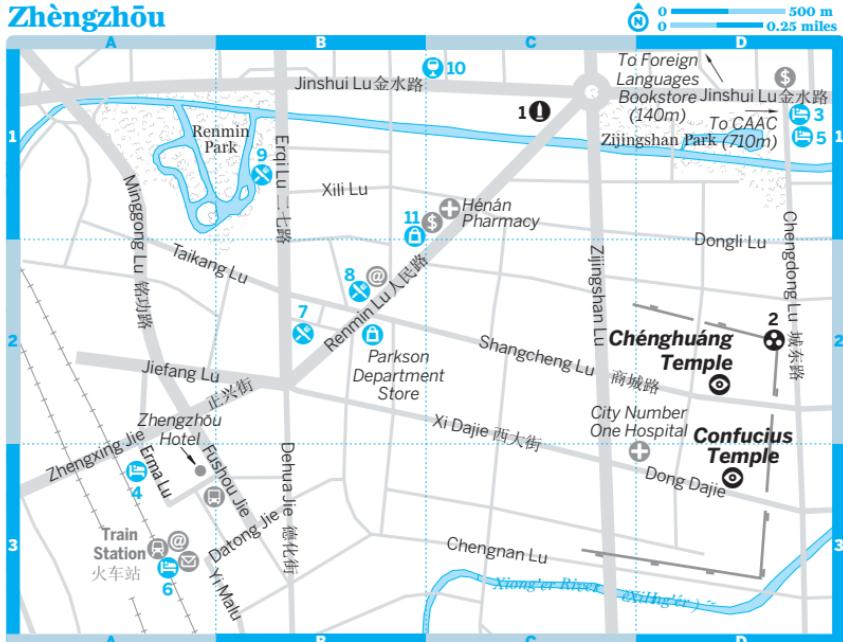
## Eating & Drinking

**Hénán Shífǔ** HENAN \$  
(河南食府; ☎6622 2108; 25 Renmin Lu; meals Y25; ☎10am-2pm & 5-9.30pm) Tucked away in a courtyard off Renmin Lu, this well-known restaurant's photo menu is full of exotic-looking dishes, but turn to the rear pages for cheap, tasty and wholesome fare. Try the *Shànghǎi xiǎolóngbāo* (上海小笼包; Shànghǎi steamed dumplings; meat/veggie Y12/10) or the tasty and cheap *yánggròu huīmìàn* (羊肉烩面; lamb-braised noodles; small/large Y4/8).

**Guāngcǎi Market** MARKET \$  
(光彩市场; Guāngcǎi Shíchǎng; snacks Y1-5; ☎8am-9pm) Gritty, perhaps, but this crowded warren of food and clothes stalls in the block northeast of Èrqí Tā is always stuffed with diners. Join the crowds for *málà tàng* (麻辣烫; spicy soup with skewered vegies and meat), *chūn juǎn* (春卷; spring rolls), *ròujiāmáo* (肉夹馍; spicy meat in a bun), *càijiābǐng* (菜夹饼; vegetables in a bun); *guōtiē* (锅贴; fried dumplings), *bāokǎo xiān yóuyú* (爆烤鲜鱿鱼; fried squid kebabs), *règānmiàn* (热干面; hot, dry noodles), sweet *xìngréng chá* (杏仁茶; almond tea), *lājiāobǐng* (辣椒饼; bread with chilli), *yánggròu tāng* (羊肉汤; lamb soup) and much more.

**Roast Duck Restaurant** ROAST DUCK \$\$  
(烤鸭店; Kǎoyādiàn; ☎6623 5108; 108 Erqi Lu; half duck Y38) Escape the noise and fumes at street level for some scrumptious duck in a smart upstairs setting just north of the Tianhe Hotel. Flick through the photo menu, attended to by polite and efficient staff, and watch chefs firing up the ovens through a glass screen.

**Target Pub** PUB  
(目标酒吧; Mùbiāo Jiǔbā; ☎138 0385 7056; 10 Jingliu Lu; ☎8pm-last customer) The triumphant Target Pub, a seasoned panorama of flags, old banknotes, rattan chairs, lazy mezzanine and half a car pinned to the ceiling, hits the bullseye with excellent music,



an outstanding selection of spirits and a laid-back vibe. Seize a chilled beer and allow proprietor Lao Wang to regale you with his tales of taming the Taklamakan Desert and wheeling it to Paris.

## Shopping

### Book Plaza

(中原图书大厦; Zhōngyuán Túshū Dàshà; ☎6628 7809; 22 Renmin Lu; ☺9am-7.30pm) Limited selection of English-language titles on the 3rd floor.

**Foreign Languages Bookstore** (外文书店; Wàiwén Shūdiàn; Zhengsan Jie; ☺8.30am-6pm)

## Information

### Internet Access

Internet cafes (rates Y3 to Y5 per hour) cluster near the train station.

**Internet cafe** (网吧; wǎngbā; per hr Y2-3; ☺24hr) Next to Hénán Shífū.

**Internet cafe** (网吧; wǎngbā; 2nd fl, ticket hall No 1, train station; per hr Y3-5; ☺8am-midnight)

**Tiānyá Internet Cafe** (天涯网吧; Tiānyá Wǎngbā; 2nd fl, Jiankang Lu; per hr Y2; ☺24hr) About 1km due north of Renmin Park; look for the Winnie-the-Pooh sign.

## Zhèngzhōu

### Top Sights

Chénghuáng Temple.....	D2
Confucius Temple .....	D3

### Sights

1 Mao Zedong Statue.....	C1
2 Shang City Walls.....	D2

### Sleeping

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4 Jīnjiāng Inn .....	A3
5 Sofitel .....	D1
6 Yíngbīn Zhāodàisú.....	A3

### Eating

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8 Hénán Shífū.....	B2
9 Roast Duck Restaurant.....	B1

### Drinking

10 Target Pub .....	C1
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### Shopping

11 Book Plaza .....	B1
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**Yilóng Wāngjiā** (176 Jiankang Lu; per hr Y2.50; ☺24hr) Around 1.5km north of Renmin Park.

**Medical Services**

**City Number One Hospital** (市一院; Shì Yīyuàn; Dong Dajie)

**Hénán Pharmacy** (河南大药房; Hénán Dàyàofáng; ☎ 6623 4256; 19 Renmin Lu; ☎ 24hr)

**Money**

**Bank of China** (中国银行; Zhōngguó Yínháng; 8 Jinshui Lu; ☎ 9am-5pm)

**Industrial & Commercial Bank of China** (工商银行; Gōngshāng Yínháng; Renmin Lu) Has a 24-hour ATM.

**Post**

**China Post** (中国邮政; Zhōngguó Yóuzhèng; ☎ 8am-8pm) South end of train-station concourse.

**Public Security Bureau****PSB Exit-Entry Administrative Office**

(公安局出入境管理处; Gōng'ānjú Chūrùjīng Guǎnlíchù; ☎ 6962 0350; 90 Xihuanghe Donglu; ☎ 8.30am-noon & 3-6.30pm Jun-Aug, 2-5.30pm Mon-Fri Sep-May) For visa extensions; take bus 135 or 114.

## Getting There & Away

**Air**

**The Civil Aviation Administration of China** (CAAC; 中国民航; Zhōngguó Mínháng; ☎ 6599 1111; 3 Jinshui Lu, at Dongmin Lu), just east of the centre, sells tickets, as does the **ticket office** (售票处; shòupiào chū; ☎ 6672 0111) at the **Zhèngzhōu Hotel** (郑州大酒店; Zhèngzhōu Dàjiǔdiàn; ☎ 6677 7111; 8 Xinglong Jie). Look for the sign that reads 'Zhengzhou Airport Ticket Office'. Daily flights include the following:

**Běijīng** Y690, eight flights daily

**Guǎngzhōu** Y1760, 11 flights daily

**Guīlín** Y1200, two flights daily

**Hóngkǒng** Y2200, one flight daily

**Shànghǎi** Y800, 14 flights daily

**Shēnzhèn** Y1410, nine flights daily

**Bus**

The most useful **long-distance bus station** (长途汽车站; chángtú qíchēzhàn) is opposite the train station, with regular buses:

**Dēngfēng** Y26, one hour, every 30 minutes

**Gōngyì** Y24, one hour, every 30 minutes

**Línyǐng** Y31, two hours, hourly

**Luòyáng** Y38 to Y50, two hours, every 15 minutes

**Shàolín Temple** Y25, 1½ to 2½ hours, every 20 to 30 minutes (6.30am to 11.30pm)

**Xī'ān** Y120, 6½ hours, hourly

Check at the long-distance bus station to see if there are buses to Kāifēng (Y7); otherwise, buses (Y7, 9½ hours) run from the **north bus station** (qíchē běizhàn), reachable on bus 520 (Y1.50).

**Train**

Zhèngzhōu is a major rail hub with trains to virtually every conceivable destination, including the Běijīng-Kowloon express.

For a Y5 commission, tickets are easy to buy at the **advance-booking office** (火车预售票处; Huǒchē Yùshòupiàochù; ☎ 6835 6666; cnr Zhengxing Jie & Fushou Jie; ☎ 8am-5pm).

There are nine G-class high-speed trains to Luòyáng (Lóngmén) between 7.55am and 8.25pm; tickets cost Y61/97 (2nd/1st class).

D-class express trains:

**Ānyáng** hard/soft seat Y58/69, two daily (7.22am and 8.51am).

**Běijīng** hard/soft seat Y213/256, five hours, one daily (7.22am). Via Ānyáng and Shíjiāzhuāng; D134. To Běijīng West train station; three other D trains run to this station.

**Hànkǒu** hard/soft seat Y160/192

**Jínán** hard/soft seat Y207/248

**Kāifēng** hard/soft seat Y22/27, 30 minutes, one daily (8.23am)

**Luòyáng** Y17 to Y20, 2½ hours

**Nánjīng** hard/soft seat Y205/247, one daily (8.23am)

**Shànghǎi** hard/soft seat Y239/299, 6½ hours, one daily (8.23am). Via Kāifēng and Nánjīng.

**Shíjiāzhuāng** hard/soft seat Y128/153, two daily (7.22am and 8.51am).

**Tàiyuán** hard/soft seat Y199/239, 4½ hours, one daily (8.51am). Via Ānyáng and Shíjiāzhuāng.

**Xī'ān** hard seat Y78, 7½ hours

**Xīnxiāng** Y13, 1½ hours

## Getting Around

**TO/FROM THE AIRPORT** Airport buses (Y15, one hour, from 6.30am to 7pm) leave every hour from the Zhèngzhōu Hotel. A taxi to the airport (40 minutes) costs around Y100.

**Bus**

**Bus 2** Runs to near the Shang City Walls.

**Bus 39** Runs from the train station to Hénán Provincial Museum.

**Bus 26** Runs from the train station past 7 February Sq and along Jinshui Lu to the CAAC office.

**LIGHT RAIL** Line 1 is under construction along Renmin Lu. The north-south Line 2 following Zijingshan Lu is also under construction.

**TAXI** Fares start at Y6 (Y8 at night).

To walk through Nánjiēcūn's Cháoyáng Gate is to depart one world and enter another. Amble south through the gate from the boisterous and tatty market road in real China and observe how the unruly sounds of capitalist China are quickly smothered by jubilant Maoist propaganda blaring from speakers in Nánjiēcūn. There is no shouting, no spitting, no hawking, no swindling and there are no beggars or massage parlours in Nánjiēcūn. A powerful sense of decency and socialist civilisation prevails on its streets, which is conspicuous if you have spent time contending with the abrasiveness and squalor of the modern Chinese economy. Do take time, however, to wander to the outskirts of town. Although considerable activity animates the centre of Nánjiēcūn, things can appear surprisingly deserted on its peripheries. When we visited, these streets seemed empty, with no one entering or leaving the flats and just the occasional bicycle rattling by empty-looking and idle factories. In fact parts of Nánjiēcūn create a feeling of unreality reminiscent of *The Truman Show*. In 2008 reports suggested that Nánjiēcūn was a costly fraud, after amassing debts of over 1 billion yuán and effectively being funded by the Agricultural Bank of China. Perhaps attempting to clarify, the tourist-brochure blurb notes that Nánjiēcūn is 'neither myth nor Eutopia (sic), but is in existence, growing and advancing' and can 'enrich people's connotation' while helping you to feel the 'superiority complex of collectivity'.

## Around Zhèngzhōu

### NÁNJIĒCŪN

South of Zhèngzhōu, **NÁNJIĒCŪN** ([www.nanjiécun.cn](http://www.nanjiécun.cn); admission free) is China's very last Maoist collective (*gōngshè*). There are no Buddhist temples or mist-wreathed mountain panoramas, but a trip to Nánjiē is nonetheless one back in time: this is a journey to the puritanical and revolutionary China of the 1950s, when Chairman Mao was becoming a supreme being, money was yesterday's scene and the menace of karaoke had yet to be prophesied by even the most paranoid party faithful.

The first inkling you are stepping into an entirely different world may appear if you drop your bag off at the Nánjiēcūn Supermarket (南街村超市; Nánjiēcūn Chāoshì) on the western edge of town, where smiling young girls in revolutionary greens accept no fee for bag storage. Wow.

Nánjiēcūn perhaps resembles an average town in North Korea: the perfectly clean streets run in straight lines with a kind of austere socialist beauty, past noodle factories, schools and rows of identikit blocks of workers' flats emblazoned with vermillion communist slogans. One slogan reads: 'A drop of water only needs to be part of a great ocean to never dry up; a person can only have its greatest strength when part of a collective body'. Beatific portraits of Chairman Mao gaze down,

while occasional flocks of white doves add to a surreal mood.

Make your way east along Yingsong Dadao (颖松大道) to **East is Red Sq** (东方红广场; Dōngfānghóng Guǎngchǎng), where two armed guards maintain a 24-hour vigil at the foot of a statue of Chairman Mao, and portraits of Marx, Engels, Stalin and Lenin (the original 'Gang of Four') rise up on all four sides. The square is deluged in shrill propaganda broadcast from speakers in true 1950s style. A short stroll north brings you to **Cháoyáng Gate Sq** (朝阳门广场; Cháoyángmén Guǎngchǎng) and the rebuilt, traditional architecture of **Cháoyáng Gate** (朝阳门; Cháoyáng Mén), topped with a portrait of Sun Zhongshan.

Indefatigable party loyalists troop to facsimiles of Chinese communist icons (Yan'an Pagoda, Chairman Mao's Sháoshān home and others) in the south of the village by the **NÁNJIĒCŪN Botanic Gardens** (Nánjiēcūn Zhíwùyuán).

### Sleeping & Eating

A day trip from Zhèngzhōu should suffice, but if you find Nánjiēcūn's nostalgic kitsch hard to abandon, check into the white-tile **Nanjiecun Hotel** (南街村宾馆; ☎0395-885 1271; r Y40, d/tr Y160/180, discounts of 25%; ✶), where the carpets are revolutionary red and girls in combat greens can lead you to classically old-style two-star hotel rooms. The hotel, with a restaurant, is on the northwest side of East is Red Sq.

A clutch of restaurants can be found along the western end of Zhongyuan Lu (中原路), to the south of and parallel with Yingsong Dadao. Alternatively, head north through Cháoyáng Gate to the boisterous market street in real China beyond, which is peppered with restaurants.

## ① Information

Take money with you to Nánjiècūn, as the ATM at the **Agricultural Bank of China** (农业银行; Nóngyè Yínháng) on Yingsong Lu may not take your card and there is nowhere to change money. The **Tourist Service Center** (旅游接待处; Yóukè Jièdàichù; 8.30am-5.30pm) at the west end of Yingsong Dadao can provide you with a booklet and a map (in Chinese) to prepare you for exploration.

## ① Getting There & Away

From Zhèngzhōu bus station, buses (Y31, two hours) run south every hour between 6.40am and 6.10pm to the bus station at Línyíng (临颍), from where it's a 2km or so walk or sānlúncí (pedal-powered tricycle) journey south to Nánjiècūn on the east side of the road.

# Sōng Shān & Dēngfēng

嵩山、登封

20371

In Taoism, Sōng Shān is regarded as the central mountain, symbolising earth (*tǔ*) among the five elements and occupying the axis directly beneath heaven. Despite this Taoist affiliation, the mountains are also home to one of China's most famous and legendary Zen (Chan) Buddhist temples, the Shàolín Temple. Three main peaks compose Sōng Shān, rising to 1512m about 80km west of Zhèngzhōu.

At the foot of 1494m-high **Tàishi Shān** (太室山), a short ride southeast of the Shàolín Temple and 74km from Zhèngzhōu, sits the squat little town of Dēngfēng. Tatty and squalid in parts, it is used by travellers as a base for trips to surrounding sights or exploratory treks into the hills.

The main bus station is in the far east of town. Most hotels and restaurants are strung out on or near Zhongyue Dajie (中岳大街), the main east-west street, and Shào-lín Dadao (少林大道), parallel to the south. The Shàolín Temple is a 15-minute bus ride northwest of town.

## ① Sights & Activities

### Shàolín Temple

BUDDHIST TEMPLE

(少林寺; Shàolín Sì; 26370 2503; admission Y120; 8am-6.30pm) The largely rebuilt Shàolín Temple, some 80km southwest of Zhèngzhōu, is a victim of its own success. A frequent target of war, the temple was last torched in 1928, and the surviving halls – many of recent construction – are today besieged by marauding tour groups.

Note that most, if not all, of the temple halls are very recent rebuilds, as many – such as the main **Great Treasure Hall** (大雄宝殿; Dàxióng Bǎodiàn; reconstructed in 1985) – were levelled by fire in 1928. Some halls only date back as far as 2004. Among the oldest structures at the temple are the **decorative arches** and **stone lions**, both outside the main gate.

Enter the temple past stelae of dedication – many, such as one from the Tang Sōo Do Association, from abroad – and make for the temple's signature sights. At the rear, the **Pilu Pavilion** (西方圣人殿; Xīfāng Shèngrénn Diàn) contains the famous depressions in the floor, apocryphally the result of generations of monks practising their stance work, and huge colour frescos. The **Guanyin Hall** (观音殿; Guānyīn Diàn) contains the celebrated frescos of fighting Shàolín monks. Always be on the lookout for the ubiquitous Damo (Bodhidharma), founder of Shàolín boxing, whose bearded Indian visage gazes sagaciously from stelae or peeks out from temple halls.

Across from the temple entrance, the Arhat Hall within the **Shífang Chányuàn** (十方禅院) contains legions of crudely fashioned *luóhàn* (monks who have achieved enlightenment and passed to nirvana at death). The **Pagoda Forest** (少林塔林; Shàolín Tǎlín), a cemetery of 246 small brick pagodas including the ashes of an eminent monk, is well worth visiting if you get here ahead of the crowds. As you face the Shàolín Temple, paths on your left lead up **Wǔrǔ Peak** (五乳峰; Wǔrǔ Fēng). Flee the tourist din by heading into the hills to see the **cave** (达摩洞; Dámó Dòng) where Damo meditated for nine years; it's 4km away, so viewing it through high-powered binoculars (Y2) is an option. All of the sights mentioned so far are included in the main ticket price.

At 1512m above sea level and reachable on the Sōngyáng Cableway (Sōngyáng Suódào; Y30 return), **Shàoshi Shān** (少室山) is the

area's tallest peak, with a scenic trek beside craggy rock formations along a path that often hugs the cliff. The trek takes about six hours return, covers 15km and takes you to the 782-step **Rope Bridge** (索桥; Suō Qiáo).

For safety reasons, monks recommend trekking with a friend. The Shàolín Cableway (Shàolín Suōdào; Y60 return) leads to the **Sānchuángzhài Scenic Area** (三皇寨景区; Sānchuángzhài Jīngqū). Both cableways can be found just beyond the Pagoda Forest. Maps in Chinese are available at souvenir stalls.

To reach the Shàolín Temple, take a bus (Y3, 15 minutes) from Dēngfēng's west bus station (西站; xīzhàn) on Zhongyue Dajie to the drop-off point and then a buggy (Y5, from 8am to 6pm) to the temple entrance, or walk (20 minutes). Alternatively, take a minibus from either Luoyang or Zhèngzhōu (Y17 to Y20, 1½ to 2½ hours) to the drop-off, although some make detours, so ask. From the temple, return buses leave from the drop-off point (last bus at around 8pm). A taxi to the temple from Dēngfēng will cost around Y30.

### Sōngyáng Academy

ACADEMY

(嵩阳书院; Sōngyáng Shūyuàn; admission Y30; 8am-6pm) At the foot of Tàishì Shān sits one of China's oldest academies, the lush and well-tended Sōngyáng Academy, which dates to AD 484 and rises up the hill on a series of terraces. In the courtyard are two cypress trees believed to be around 4500 years old – and they're still alive! Within walking distance of the academy, the **Sōngyuè Pagoda** (嵩岳塔; Sōngyuè Tǎ; admission Y25; 8am-6.30pm), built in AD 509, is China's oldest brick pagoda.

Both bus 2 and bus 6 (Y1) from Dēngfēng run to the Sōngyáng Academy.

### Zhōngyuè Temple

TAOIST TEMPLE

(中岳庙; Zhōngyuè Miào; admission Y30; 6.30am-6.30pm) A few kilometres east of Dēngfēng, the ancient and hoary Zhōngyuè Miào is a colossal active Taoist monastery complex that originally dates back to the 2nd century BC. Less visited, the complex – set against a mountainous background – exudes a more palpable air of reverence than its Buddhist sibling, the Shàolín Temple. Besides attending the main hall dedicated to the Mountain God, walk through the **Huàsān Gate** (化三门; Huàsān Mén) and expunge *pengju*, *pengzhi* and *pengjiao* – three pestilential insects that respectively inhabit the brain, tummy and feet. Pay a

visit to the **Ministry of Hades** (七十二司; Qīshíèr Sī) and drop by the four **Iron Men of Song**, rubbed by visitors to cure ailments. From Dēngfēng, take the green bus 2 along Zhongyue Dajie.

### Guānxīng Tái Observatory

OBSERVATORY

(观星台; admission Y10; 8am-6.30pm) In the town of Gāochéng, 15km southeast of Dēngfēng, is China's oldest surviving observatory. In 1276 the emperor ordered two astronomers to chart a calendar. After observing from the stone tower, they came back in 1280 with a mapping of 365 days, five hours, 49 minutes and 12 seconds, which differs from modern calculations by only 26 seconds. Regular southbound buses from Dēngfēng can take you here; catch them from any large intersection in the southeastern part of town.

### Sleeping

#### Shàolín Hotel

HOTEL \$\$

(少林宾馆; Shàolín Bīnguǎn; 6016 1616; 66 Zhongyue Dajie; 中岳大街66号; d Y288, business r Y300, discounts of 50%; ✉) Bright and cheery staff, good discounts and clean rooms make this neat and trim hotel on Zhongyue Dajie a good choice. There's no English sign, so look for the four-storey white building east of Dicos (a fast-food restaurant).

#### Shàolín International Hotel

HOTEL \$\$\$

(少林国际大酒店; Shàolín Guójí Dàjìudiàn; 6285 6868; www.shaolinhotel.com; 20 Shaolin Dadao; 少林大道20号; s/d/ste Y680/780/1180; ✉) Calling itself a four-star hotel, this is more like a smartish three-star, with obligatory scads of black Buicks parked outside. Jiang Zemin stayed here, leaving his photo in the lobby and making the hotel popular with visiting Chinese.

### Dēngfēng Shàolín Temple Traveler's Hostel

HOSTEL \$

(旅行家青年旅舍; Lǚxíngjiā Qīngnián Lǚshè; 6288 6799, 159 8188 3801; Chonggao Luxi; 崇高路西308号; dm Y30, d with/without bathroom Y160/100; ✉) English-speaking staff.

### Information

#### Bank of China

(中国银行; Zhōngguó Yínháng) 52 Zhongyue Dajie (8am-5pm Mon-Fri); 186 Shaolin Dadao (9am-noon & 2-5pm Mon-Fri) Both have 24-hour ATM and forex.

#### China International Travel Service (CITS)

(中国国际旅行社; Zhōngguó Guójí Lǚxíngshè; 6288 3442; Beihuan Lu Xiduan) Has helpful, English-speaking staff.

**China Post** (中国邮政; Zhōngguó Yóuzhèng; cnr Zhongyue Dajie & Wangji Lu)

**No 2 People's Hospital** (第二人民医院; Dì'èr Rénmín Yíyuàn; 6289 9999; 189 Shaolin Dadao) Located on the main road.

## 1 Getting There & Around

The Dēngfēng bus station is in the east of town; jump on bus 1 (Y1) to reach Zhongyue Dajie and the town centre. Buses to/from Zhèngzhōu (Y26, 1½ hours) and Luòyáng (Y20, two hours) run every 30 minutes. Hotels in Zhèngzhōu and Luòyáng often arrange day tours (Y40, excluding entrance fees) that include sites along the way. To purchase tickets for trains departing from Zhèngzhōu, go to the **train ticket office** (8am-noon & 2-5pm) at the gate of the Sōngyáng Yingbin Hotel (130 Shaolin Dadao). Taxis start at Y5.

## Luòyáng

0379 / POP 1.4 MILLION

## 洛阳

Capital of 13 dynasties until the Northern Song dynasty shifted its capital to Kāifēng in the 10th century, Luòyáng was one of China's true dynastic citadels. Charted on maps of the town, the mighty Sui- and Tang-dynasty walls sat in an imposing rectangle north and south of the Luò River, while the city boasted 1300 Buddhist temples. A leaflet at the Luòyáng Museum trumpets: 'Luòyáng has been the centre of the world since ancient times...it is a resplendent pearl'. It's impossible today to conceive that Luòyáng was once the very centre of the Chinese universe and the eastern capital of the great Tang dynasty. The heart of the magnificent Sui-dynasty palace complex was centred on the point where today's Zhongzhou Lu and Dingding Lu intersect in a frenzy of honking traffic.

Luòyáng is now largely indistinguishable from other fume-laden modern Chinese towns. Nonetheless, the magnificently sculpted Lóngmén Caves by the banks of the Yǐ River remain one of China's most prized Buddhist treasures and the annual **Peony Festival**, centred on Wángchéng Park in April, is colourful fun. The old town, where the bulk of Luòyáng's history survives, is in the east.

## 2 Sights & Activities

### FREE Luòyáng Museum

(洛阳博物馆; Luòyáng Bówùguǎn; 298 Zhongzhou Zhonglu; 8.30am-5.30pm Apr-Oct, to 5pm Nov-Mar) One of the few places you

can get your finger on the pulse of ancient Luòyáng, this museum has an absorbing collection of Tang-dynasty three-colour *sāncǎi* porcelain and dioramas of the Sui- and Tang-dynasty city: the outer Tang wall was punctured by 18 magnificent gates and embraced the Imperial City with the colossal, five-eaved and circular Tiāntáng (Hall of Heaven) at its heart. Despite plentiful explanations concerning Luòyáng's former grandeur, there is little info on its subsequent loss. Take bus 4 or 11.

### Old Town

HISTORIC AREA

(老城区; lǎochéngqū) Any Chinese city with any sense of history has its old town. Luòyáng's old town lies east of the rebuilt **Lijīng Gate** (丽京门; Lijīng Mén; gate tower admission Y30; 8am-10pm), where a maze of narrow and winding streets rewards exploration, and old courtyard houses survive amid modern outcrops. Climbable for Y2, originally dating to 1555 and moved to this location in 1614, the old **Drum Tower** (鼓楼; Gǔ Lóu) rises up at the east end of Dong Dajie (东大街), itself lined with traditional rooftops. The square, brick **Wénfēng Pagoda** (文峰塔; Wénfēng Tǎ; 6 Donghe Xiang) has a 700-year history, with an inaccessible door on the 2nd floor and a brick shack built onto its south side. A notable historic remnant survives in the two halls of the former **City God Temple** (城隍庙; Chénghuáng Miào), east of the corner of Zhongzhou Donglu and Jinye Lu, although it is not open to visitors. Note the intriguing roof ornaments of the green-tiled first hall facing the street.

### Wángchéng Park

PARK

(王城公园; Wángchéng Gōngyuán; Zhongzhou Zhonglu; admission Y3, park & zoo Y15, Peony Festival Y50-55) One of Luòyáng's indispensable green lungs, this attractive park is the site of the annual Peony Festival; held in April, the festival sees the park flooded with colour, floral aficionados, photographers, girls with garlands on their heads and hawkers selling huge bouquets of flowers. During the festival, the park is open late for a light show.

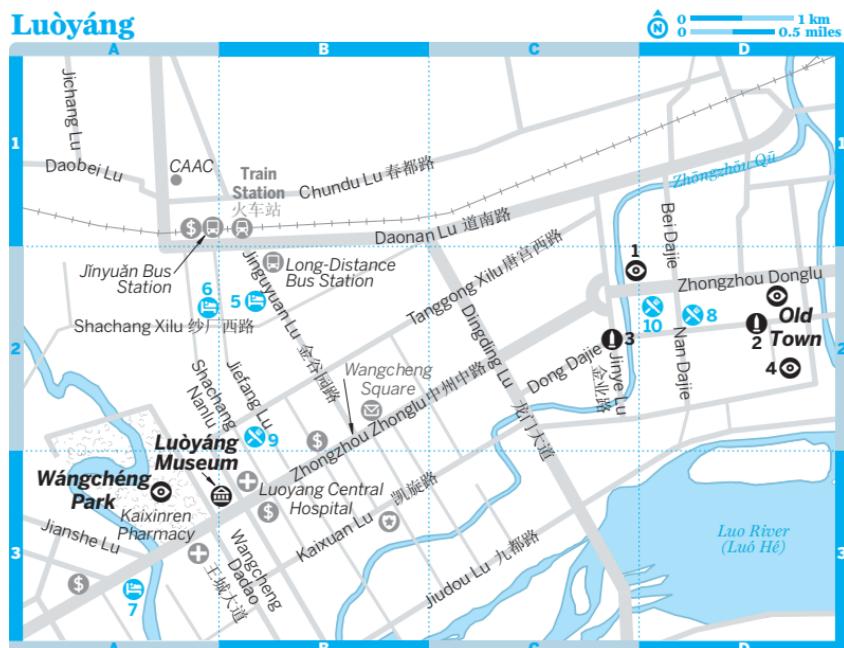
## 3 Sleeping

Luòyáng has a largely unappealing choice of hotels in every budget bracket.

### Luòyáng Youth Hostel

HOSTEL \$

(洛阳国际青年旅社; Luòyáng Guójí Qīngnián Lǚshè; 6526 0666; 3rd fl, Binjiang Dasha, 72 Jinguyuan Lu; 金谷园路72号滨江大厦3楼;



6-/8-person dm Y60/55, common r Y140, s/d Y238/228, discounts on d of 40%; This rather sterile hostel, a short walk from the train station, has very tidy, bright and clean bunk-bed dorms. Tiled-floor doubles are clean and simple; some rooms come with computers. Internet access available at Y2 per hour.

### Míngyuàn Hotel

HOTEL \$

(明苑宾馆; Míngyuàn Bīnguǎn; 6319 0378; lymingyuan@163.com; 20 Jiefang Lu; 解放路20号; dm Y50, s & d Y328; Once a popular and efficient backpacker hotel, this place has morphed into a more average two-star affair with an imitation-leather suite in the foyer and less responsive service, but standard rooms are comfortable enough.

### Peony Hotel

HOTEL \$\$

(牡丹大酒店; Mǔdān Dàjiǔdiàn; 6468 0000; www.peonyhotel.net; dept@yahoo.com.cn; 15 Zhongzhou Xilu; 中州西路15号; standard d Y550-660, discounts of 30%; Renovated in 2004, standard 'A' doubles are small, with midget bathrooms, but are prettily laid out and attractively furnished, with free broadband. Nonsmoking rooms available.

### Eating

Luòyáng's famous 'water banquet' resonates along China's culinary grapevine.

## Luòyáng

### ◎ Top Sights

Luòyáng Museum	B3
Old Town	D2
Wängchéng Park	A3

### ◎ Sights

1 City God Temple	C2
2 Drum Tower	D2
3 Lijīng Gate	C2
4 Wénfēng Pagoda	D2

### Sleeping

5 Luoyang Youth Hostel	B2
6 Míngyuàn Hotel	A2
7 Peony Hotel	A3

### Eating

Carrefour	(see 9)
8 Old Town Market	D2
9 Tudali	B2
10 Zhēn Bù Tóng Fàndiàn	D2

The main dishes of this 24-course meal are soups and are served up with the speed of flowing water – hence the name. A handy branch of Carrefour (家乐福; Jiālèfù) can be found near the corner of Tanggong Xilu and Jiefang Lu.

**Tudali**

(土大力; Tǔdàlì; ☎6312 0513; [www.tudali.com](http://www.tudali.com), in Chinese; Xinduhui, cnr Jiefang Lu & Tanggong Xilu; meals Y30; ☎11.30am-2am) With the accent on spiciness, this popular Korean restaurant brings out patrons in a sweat. The *pàocàitāng* (泡菜汤; kimchi soup; Y15) is refreshingly piquant, as is the *làwèi niúròutāng* (辣味牛肉汤; spicy beef soup; Y22), or you can get your metal chopsticks around a plate of chips (Y10). Handy photo menu and helpful staff in red and black tops.

**Old Town Market**

MARKET \$ (南大街夜市; Nándàjiē yèshì; cnr Xi Dajie & Dong Dajie & north to Zhongzhou Donglu; ☎10am-10pm) Lively street market with a cornucopia of snacks from *cuīpí xiānnǎi* (脆皮鲜奶; crispy milk nuggets; Y2), *yángròu chuàn* (羊肉串; lamb kebabs; Y2), sweet, gelatinous bowls of *xìngrénchá* (杏仁茶; almond dessert; Y5) and super-sweet *gānzhe zhī* (甘蔗汁; sugar-cane juice; Y1 to Y2).

**Zhēn Bù Tóng Fàndiàn**

HENAN \$\$ (真不同饭店; One of a Kind Restaurant; ☎6399 5080; 369 Zhongzhou Donglu; dishes Y15-45, water banquet from Y60) Huge place behind a colourful green, red, blue and gold traditional facade. This is the place to come for a water-banquet experience; if 24 courses seems a little excessive, you can opt to pick individual dishes from the menu.

**Information**

Internet cafes (per hour Y2) are scattered around the train station and sprinkled along nearby Jinguyuan Lu.

**Bank of China** (中国银行; Zhōngguó Yínháng; ☎8am-4.30pm) The Zhongzhou Xilu office exchanges travellers cheques and has an ATM that accepts MasterCard and Visa. There's also a branch on the corner of Zhongzhou Lu and Shachang Nanlu that's open until 5.30pm. Another branch just west of the train station has foreign-exchange services.

**China Post** (中国邮政; Zhōngguó Yóuzhèng; cnr Zhongzhou Zhonglu & Jinguyuan Lu)

**Industrial & Commercial Bank of China** (ICBC; 工商银行; Gōngshāng yínháng; Zhongzhou Zhonglu) Huge branch; forex and 24-hour ATM.

**Kāixīnrén Pharmacy** (开人大药房; Kāixīnrén Dàyàofáng; ☎6392 8315; 483 Zhongzhou Zhonglu; ☎24hr)

**Luoyang Central Hospital** (洛阳市中心医院; Luoyang Shi Zhōngxīn Yíyuàn; ☎6389 2222;

KOREAN \$

288 Zhongzhou Lu) Works in cooperation with SOS International; also has a pharmacy.

**Public Security Bureau** (PSB; 公安局; Gōng'ānjú; ☎6393 8397; cnr Kaixuan Lu & Ti-yuchang Lu; ☎8am-noon & 2-5.30pm Mon-Fri) The exit-entry department (Chūrùjìng Dàtīng) is in the south building.

**Western Union** (全球汇款特快; Quánqíú Huikuān Tékuài; ☎800 820 8668; Zhongzhou Xilu) Next door to the Bank of China.

**Getting There & Away****Air**

You would do better to fly into or out of Zhèngzhōu. The **CAAC** (中国民航; Zhōngguó Mínháng; ☎6231 0121, 24hr 6539 9366; 196 Chundu Lu) is in an ugly white-tile building north of the railway line, but tickets can be obtained through hotels. Daily flights operate to Bēijīng (Y890, one hour), Shànghǎi (Y890, one hour) and other cities.

**Bus**

Regular departures from the **long-distance bus station** (长途汽车站; chángtú qìchēzhàn; 51 Jinguyuan Lu) across from the train station include the following:

**Dēngfēng** Y20, two hours, every 30 minutes

**Kāifēng** Y50, three hours, hourly (7.15am to 6pm)

**Línyīng** Y51, four hours, one daily (2pm)

**Shàolín Temple** Y17, 1½ hours, every 20 minutes (5.20am to 6pm)

**Xi'ān** Y90, four hours, hourly (8am to 6pm)

**Zhèngzhōu** Y40, 1½ hours, every 20 minutes

Buses to similar destinations depart from the **Jínyuǎn bus station** (锦远汽车站; Jínyuǎn qìchēzhàn), just west of the train station.

Fast buses to Shàolín (Y20, one to 1½ hours) leave from outside the train station every half-hour until 4.30pm; otherwise, take a bus for Xúchāng from the long-distance bus station and get off at the temple (Y22, 1½ hours). You can also get to Shàolín on buses to Dēngfēng (Y20, two hours).

**Train**

Luoyang's new **Luoyang Lóngmén Station**

(洛阳龙门站; Lùoyáng Lóngmén Zhàn) over the river in the south of town has extra-high-speed trains to Zhèngzhōu and Xi'ān.

Regional destinations include Kāifēng (hard seat Y30, three hours) and Zhèngzhōu (hard seat Y10 to Y20, 1½ hours).

Hard-sleeper destinations:

**Bēijīng West** seat/sleeper Y106/191, seven to 10 hours

**Nánjīng** seat/sleeper Y113/201, 10 to 12 hours

**Shànghǎi** seat/sleeper Y153/254, 13 to 16 hours

**Wūhàn** seat/sleeper Y87/157, nine hours

**Xī'ān** 2nd/1st class Y184/294, two hours. There are eight G-class trains to Xī'ān daily.

**Zhèngzhōu** 2nd/1st class Y61/97, 40 minutes, eight daily. G train. From Lùoyáng Lóngmén Station.

## Getting Around

There is no shuttle bus from the CAAC office to the airport, 12km north of the city, but bus 83 (Y1, 30 minutes) runs from the parking lot to the right as you exit the train station; a taxi from the train station will cost about Y30.

Buses 5 and 41 go to the Old Town from the train station, running via Wángchéng Sq. Buses 26, 28, 33, 65 and 66 run to Lùoyáng Lóngmén Station.

Taxis are Y5 at flag fall, making them good value and a more attractive option than taking motor-rickshaws, which will cost you around Y4 from the train station to Wángchéng Sq.

## Around Luòyáng

### Lóngmén Caves

龙门石窟 (Lóngmén Shíkū; admission Y120, English-speaking guide Y100; ☎ 6am-8pm summer, 6.30am-7pm winter) was first undertaken by chisellers from the Northern Wei dynasty, after the capital was relocated here from Dàtóng in AD 494. Over the next 200 years or so, more than 100,000 images and statues of Buddha and his disciples emerged from over a kilometre of limestone cliff wall along the Yí River (Yí Hé).

A bewildering amount of decapitation disfigures the statuary. In the early 20th century, many effigies were beheaded by unscrupulous collectors or simply extracted whole, many ending up abroad in such institutions as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Atkinson Museum in Kansas City and the Tokyo National Museum. A noticeboard at the site lists significant statues that are missing and their current whereabouts. Some effigies are returning and severed heads are gradually being restored to their bodies, but many statues

have clearly just had their faces crudely bludgeoned off, vandalism that dates to the Cultural Revolution (the Ten Thousand Buddha Cave was particularly badly damaged during this period) and earlier episodes of anti-Buddhist fervour. Weather has also played its part, wearing smooth the faces of many other statues.

The caves are scattered in a line on the west and east sides of the river. Most of the significant Buddhist carvings are on the west side, but a notable crop can also be admired after traversing the bridge to the east side. Surprisingly, English captions are rudimentary despite the caves being a major tourist drawcard. The caves are numbered and illuminated at night.

The Lóngmén Caves are 13km south of Lùoyáng and can be reached by taxi (Y30) or bus 81 (Y1.50, 40 minutes) from the east side of Lùoyáng's train station. The last bus 81 returns to Lùoyáng at 8.50pm. Buses 53 and 60 also run to the caves.

### WEST SIDE

#### Three Bīnyáng Caves

CAVES

(宾阳三洞; Bīnyáng Sān Dòng) Work began on the Three Bīnyáng Caves during the Northern Wei dynasty. Despite the completion of two of the caves during the Sui and Tang dynasties, statues here all display the benevolent expressions that characterised Northern Wei style. Traces of pigment remain within the three large grottoes and other small niches honeycomb the cliff walls. Nearby is the **Móyá Three Buddha Niche** (摩崖三佛龛; Móyá Sānfó Kān), with seven figures that date to the Tang dynasty.

#### Ten Thousand Buddha Cave

CAVE

(万佛洞; Wànfró Dòng) South of Three Bīnyáng Caves, the Tang-dynasty Ten Thousand Buddha Cave dates from 680. In addition to its namesake galaxy of tiny bas-relief Buddhas, there is a fine effigy of the Amitabha Buddha. Note the red pigment on the ceiling.

#### Lotus Flower Cave

CAVE

(莲花洞; Liánhuā Dòng) Cave No 712, also called Lotus Flower Cave, was carved between 525 and 527 during the Northern Wei dynasty. The cave contains a large standing Buddha, now faceless and handless. On the cave's ceiling wispy apsaras (celestial nymphs) drift around a central lotus flower, itself a Buddhist metaphor for purity and serenity. Note the gorgeous,

ornate, cloud-like scrolling decoration above the entrance.

### Ancestor Worshipping Temple CAVE TEMPLE

The most physically imposing of all the Lóngmén caves, this vast cave temple (奉先寺; Fèngxiān Sì) was carved during the Tang dynasty between 672 and 675; it contains the best examples of sculpture, despite evident weathering.

Nine principal figures dominate the Ancestor Worshipping Temple. Tang figures tend to be more three-dimensional than the Northern Wei figures, while their expressions and poses also seem more natural. In contrast to the other-worldly effigies of the Northern Wei, many Tang figures possess a more fearsome ferocity and muscularity, most noticeable in the huge guardian figure in the north wall.

The 17m-high seated central Buddha is said to be Losana, whose face is allegedly modelled on Tang empress and Buddhist patron Wu Zetian, who funded its carving. In the corner of the south wall of the temple, next to the semi-obliterated guardian figure, are three statues that have simply been smashed away.

### Medical Prescription Cave CAVE

(药方洞; Yàofāng Dòng) Located south of Ancestor Worshipping Temple is the tiny Medical Prescription Cave, begun in the Northern Wei and completed in the Northern Qi. The entrance to this cave is carved with 6th-century stone stelae inscribed with remedies for a range of common ailments.

### Earliest Cave CAVE

(古阳洞; Gǔyáng Dòng) Next door to the Medical Prescription Cave is the larger Earliest Cave, begun in 493. It's a narrow, high-roofed cave featuring a Buddha statue and a profusion of sculptures, particularly of flying apsaras.

### Huǒshāo Cave CAVE

(火烧洞; Huǒshāo Dòng) This largely damaged cave is followed by a string of smaller grottoes that are all in miserable condition.

### Cave 1628 CAVE

Contains a row of largely headless Tang figures.

### Carved Cave CAVE

(石窟洞; Shíkū Dòng) The last major cave in the Lóngmén complex. Features intricate carvings depicting religious processions of the Northern Wei dynasty.

icate carvings depicting religious processions of the Northern Wei dynasty.

### EAST SIDE

When you have reached the last cave on the west side, cross the bridge and walk back north along the east side. The lovely **Thousand Arm and Thousand Eye Guanyin** (千手千眼观音龕; Qiānshǒu Qiān'yan Guānyīn Kān) in Cave 2132 is a splendid bas-relief dating to the Tang dynasty, revealing the Goddess of Mercy framed in a huge fan of carved hands, each sporting an eye. Cave 2139, the **Worshipping Pure Land Niche** (西方淨土變龕; Xīfāng Jìngtǔ Biànkān), also dates to the Tang dynasty. Up the steps, two Tang-dynasty guardian deities stand outside the sizeable **Lord Gāopíng Cave** (高平郡王洞; Gāopíng Jūnwáng Dòng). Further along are several empty niches before you reach the most impressive cave on the east side, the large **Reading Sutra Cave** (看經寺洞; Kàn Jīng Sìdòng), with a carved lotus on its ceiling and 29 luóhàn around the base of the walls. There is also a large **viewing terrace** for sizing up the Ancestor Worshipping Temple on the far side of the river.

### WHITE HORSE TEMPLE

Although its original structures have largely been replaced and it is likely older temples have vanished, this active **monastery** (白马寺; Báiímǎ Sì; admission Y50; 7am-7pm) is regarded as the first surviving Buddhist temple erected on Chinese soil, originally dating from the 1st century AD.

When two Han-dynasty court emissaries went in search of Buddhist scriptures, they encountered two Indian monks in Afghanistan; the monks returned to Luoyang on two white horses carrying Buddhist Sutras and statues. The impressed emperor built the temple to house the monks; it is also their resting place.

In the **Hall of the Heavenly Kings**, Milefo laughs from within a wonderful old burnished cabinet. Structures of note include the **Big Buddha Hall**, the **Hall of Mahavira** and the **Pilu Hall** at the very rear, while the standout **Qíyún Pagoda** (齐云塔; Qíyún Tǎ), an ancient 12-tiered brick tower, is a pleasant five-minute walk away.

The temple is located 13km east of Luoyang, around 40 minutes away on bus 56 from the Xiguān (西关) stop.

## GUĀNLÍN TEMPLE

North of the Lóngmén Caves, this **temple** (关林寺; Guānlín Sì; admission Y30; 8am-5pm) is the burial place of the legendary general Guan Yu of the Three Kingdoms period (AD 220-265). The temple buildings were built during the Ming dynasty and Guan Yu was issued the posthumous title 'Lord of War' in the early Qing dynasty. Buses 81 (Y1.50) and 55 (Y1.50) run past Guānlín Temple from the train station in Luòyáng. Bus 81 stops at the temple on its return from the Lóngmén Caves. Bus 58 connects Guānlín Temple and the White Horse Temple.

## Guōliàngcūn

郭亮村

0373 / POP 300

On its clifftop perch high up in the Wànxiān (Ten Thousand Immortals) Mountains in north Hénán, this delightful high-altitude stone hamlet was for centuries sheltered from the outside world by its combination of inaccessibility and anonymity. Guōliàngcūn shot to fame as the bucolic backdrop to a clutch of Chinese films, which firmly embedded the village in contemporary Chinese mythology.

Today the village attracts legions of artists, who journey here to capture the unreal mountain scenery on paper and canvas. New hotels have sprung up at the village's foot, but the original dwellings – climbing the mountain slope – retain their simple, rustic charms. Long treks through the lovely scenery more than compensate you for the effort of journeying here.

Approximately 6°C colder than Zhèngzhōu, Guōliàngcūn is cool enough to be devoid of mosquitoes year-round (some locals say), but pack very warm clothes for winter visits, which can be bone-numbing. Visiting in low season may seem odd advice, but come evening the village can be utterly tranquil, and moonlit nights are intoxicating. Occasional power cuts plunge the village into candlelight, so pack a small torch.

Officially, the entrance charge for Guōliàngcūn is Y60 (admission to the Wànxiān Mountains Scenic Area). There is nowhere to change money in Guōliàngcūn, so take money with you. A small **clinic** (6710303) can be found in the village.

## Sights &amp; Activities

All of the delightful **village dwellings**, hung with butter-yellow *bàngzǐ* (sweet-corn cobs), are hewn from the same local stone that paves the slender alleyways, sculpts the bridges and fashions the picturesque gates of Guōliàngcūn. Walnut-faced old women peek from doorways and children scamper about, but locals are well used to outsiders.

You will have passed by the **Precipice Gallery** (绝壁长廊; Juébì Chángláng) en route to the village, but backtrack down for a closer perspective on these plunging cliffs, with dramatic views from the tunnel carved from the rock face. Before this tunnel was built (between 1972 and 1978) by a local man called Shen Mingxin and others, the only way into the village was via the **Sky Ladder** (天梯; Tiān Tī), Ming-dynasty steps hewn from the local pink stone, with no guard rails but amazing views. You pass the Sky Ladder after about 30 to 40 minutes if walking along the path to the charming village of **Huitáo Zhài** (会逃寨), with its cliff-top cottages. It's hard to imagine that this area was largely under the sea 500 million years ago.

Over the bridge on the other side of the precipice from the village, walk past the small row of cottages almost on the edge of the cliff called **Yáshàng Rénjiā** (崖上人家) and you can step onto a platform atop a pillar of rock for astonishing views into the canyon.

Continuing along the road out of Guōliàngcūn, past the hotels and away from the Sky Ladder, you can do a bracing 5km loop through the mountain valley and past the awe-inspiring curtain of rock above the **Shouting Spring** (喊泉; Hǎn Quán); its flow responds to the loudness of your whoops, so the story goes. You'll also pass the **Old Pool** (老潭; Lǎo Tán) and two caves: the **Red Dragon Cave** (红龙洞; Hónglóng Dòng) and the **White Dragon Cave** (白龙洞; Bái lóng Dòng). Vehicles whiz travellers along the route for Y5. Once you've seen the big sights, get off the beaten trail and onto one of the small paths heading into the hills (such as the boulder-strewn brookside trail along the flank of Guōliàngcūn that leads further up into the mountain), but take water.



## Sleeping &amp; Eating

Many homesteads in Guōliàngcūn proper have thrown open their doors to wayfarers,

offering cheap and simple beds for Y20 to Y40. Prices can be a bit higher during the summer but are negotiable in the low season. The strip of hotels at the foot of the village offer more spacious rooms, some with showers and TVs (from Y40). There are no restaurants per se, but hoteliers will cook up simple meals on request and a couple of shops sell snacks and essentials.

## ⓘ Getting There & Away

Reach Guōliàngcūn from Xīnxiāng (新乡), between Ànyáng and Zhèngzhōu. Fast trains run to Xīnxiāng from Zhèngzhōu (Y18, one hour), as do regular buses (Y25, 1½ hours). Exit Xīnxiāng train station, head straight ahead and take the first left onto Zìyóu Lù (自由路) for buses to Huìxiàn (辉县; Y6, 45 minutes, regular). Six buses (Y11, one hour 40 minutes, first/last bus 7.30am/4.30pm) from Huìxiàn's east bus station (辉县东站; Huìxiàn Dōngzhàn) pass by the mountain road to Guōliàngcūn. Note that buses from Huìxiàn may have the characters for Guōliàng (郭亮) on the window, but may only stop at Nánpíng (南坪), a village beyond the base of the road to Guōliàngcūn, depending on passenger numbers.

From Nánpíng it is a steep 3km walk to Guōliàngcūn up the mountain road (not recommended with a heavy backpack); otherwise, taxis or local drivers are prone to fleecing for the steep haul (Y40), especially if travellers are scarce. In the other direction, Huìxiàn-bound minibuses (Y11) run from the bottom of the mountain road from Guōliàngcūn at 9am, noon and 3pm. Guesthouse owners should be able to run you down to the drop-off point for around Y30 if you spend the night in their lodgings.

## Kāifēng

20378 / POP 581,000

## 开封

Of all China's provinces, Hénán perhaps best typifies the contradictions of a nation that loves to boast of a staggeringly long history which it has also so effectively managed to bury, overlay or destroy. More than any other of Hénán's ancient capitals, however, Kāifēng has preserved a semblance of its original grandeur. Kāifēng has character: you may have to squint a bit and learn to sift the fakes from the genuine historical fragments, but the city still offers up a riveting display of age-old charm, magnificent market food, relics from its long-vanished apogee and colourful chrysanthemums (the city flower; Kāifēng is also known as Jú-chéng, or 'Chrysanthemum Town').

It's no Píngyáo – the city is hardly knee-deep in history, and white-tile buildings blight the low skyline – but enough survives above ground level to hint at past glories and reward ambitious exploration. One reason you won't see soaring skyscrapers here is because buildings requiring deep foundations are prohibited, for fear of destroying the ancient Northern Song-dynasty city below. Large public buildings, ministries and academies such as Hénán University are all outside the city walls.

## History

Once the prosperous capital of the Northern Song dynasty (960–1126), Kāifēng was established south of the Yellow River, but not far enough to escape the river's capricious wrath. After centuries of flooding, the city of the Northern Song largely lies buried 8m to 9m deep. Between 1194 and 1938 the city flooded 368 times, an average of once every two years.

Kāifēng was also the first city in China where Jewish merchants settled when they arrived, along the Silk Road, during the Song dynasty. A small Christian community also lives in Kāifēng alongside a much larger local Muslim Hui community.

## ⓘ Sights

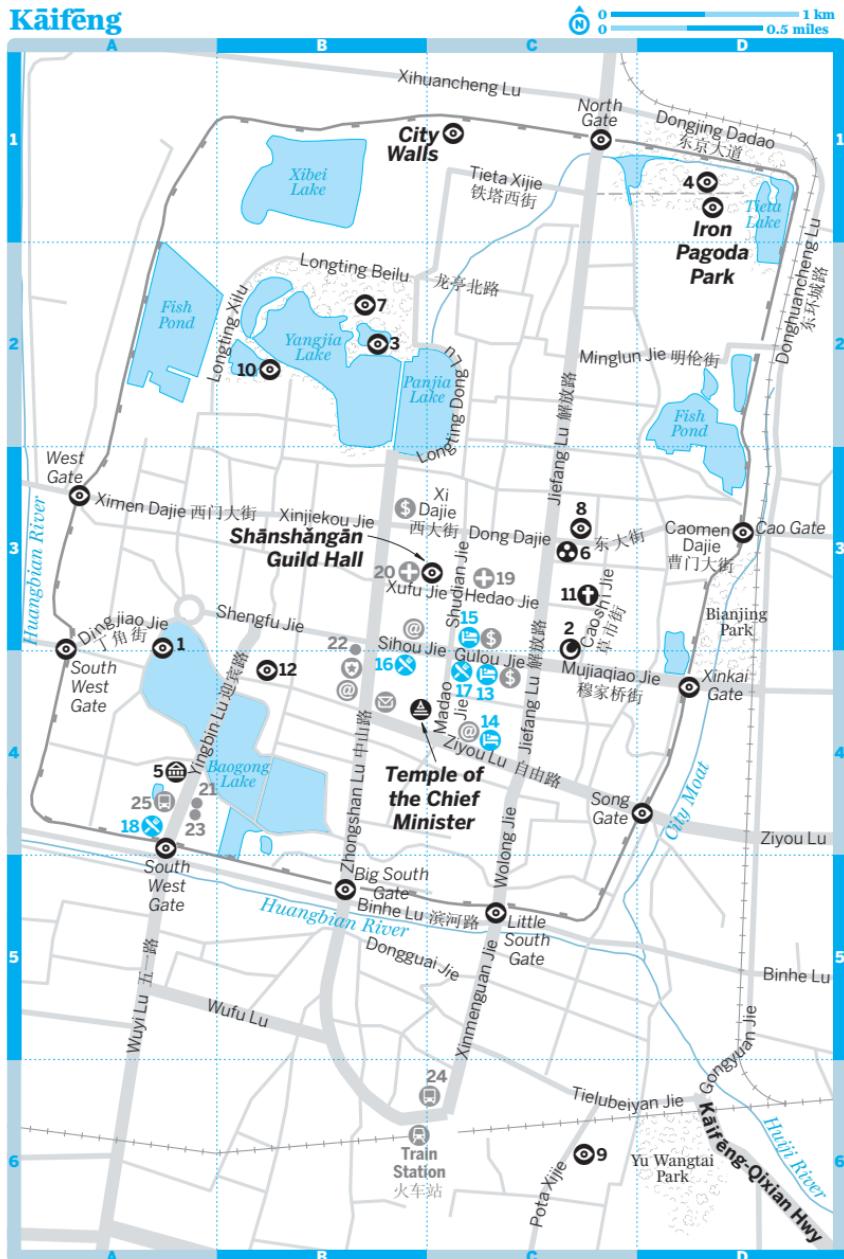
For ancient Kāifēng architecture, the trick is to wander along small streets off the main drag within the city walls, where you can find old, tumbledown, one-storey buildings with misspelled tiled roofs. Beishudian Jie has a collection of ancient, lopsided and sunken rooftops sprouting dry grass.

### Temple of the Chief Minister

BUDDHIST TEMPLE

(大相国寺; Dà Xiàngguó Sì; Zìyóu Lù; admission Y30; 8am–6pm) First founded in AD 555, this frequently rebuilt temple was destroyed along with the city in the early 1640s when rebels breached the Yellow River's dykes. During the Northern Song, the temple covered a massive 34 hectares and housed over 10,000 monks.

Within the **Hall of the Heavenly Kings** (天王殿; Tiānwáng Diàn), the mission of chubby Milefo (the Laughing Buddha) is proclaimed in the attendant Chinese characters: 'Big belly can endure all that is hard to endure in the world'. But the temple showstopper is the mesmerising **Four-Faced Thousand Hand Thousand Eye Guanyin** (四面千手千眼观世音), towering



within the octagonal Arhat Hall (罗汉殿; Luóhàn Diàn), beyond the **Hall of Tathagata** (大雄宝殿; Dàxióng Bǎodiàn). Fifty-eight years in the carving, the 7m-tall gilded statue bristles with giant fans of 1048 arms, an eye upon each hand; the arhats

themselves are presented with considerably less artistry. Jade Buddhas assemble within the **Hall of Tripitaka** (Cángjìng Lóu), where scriptures were stored, and a multitude of side halls can be explored as well as numerous shops where you can pick up

# Kāifēng

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## Sights

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Buddhist talismans and knick-knacks. Recent additions include some rather crudely fashioned pagodas and at the rear is a further hall awaiting construction. Elsewhere in the temple you can divine your future by drawing straws (*chōuqiān*), dine at the on-site **vegetarian restaurant** (斋堂) or listen to the song of caged birds.

## Shānshāngān Guild Hall

GUILDHALL

(山陕甘会馆; Shānshāngān Huìguǎn; 85 Xufu Jie; admission Y20; ☺8.30am-6.30pm summer, 8am-5pm winter) The elaborately styled guildhall was built as a lodging and meeting place during the Qing dynasty by an association of merchants from Shānxi, Shānxi (Shaanxi) and Gānsù provinces. Note the carvings on the roofs, and delve into the exhibition on historic Kāifēng. Check out the fascinating diorama of the old Song city – with its palace in the centre of town – and compare it with a model of modern Kāifēng. There are also some excellent photographs of the city's standout historic monuments, but captions are in Chinese.

## Iron Pagoda Park

PARK

(铁塔公园; Tiě Tǎ Gōngyuán; 210 Beimen Dajie; admission Y20; ☺7am-7pm) Rising up within Iron Pagoda Park is a magnificent 55m, 11th-century pagoda, a gorgeous, slender brick edifice wrapped in glazed rust-coloured tiles (hence the name); it's climbable for Y10. West of the pagoda is the **Jiēyīn Hall** (接引殿; Jiēyīn Diàn), where a bronze statue of Buddha from the Song/Jin era stands. The park hedges up against sections of the **city wall**.

Take bus 3 from the train station via Jiefang Lu to the route terminus; it's a short walk east to the park's entrance from here.

## Pó Pagoda

BUDDHIST PAGODA

(繁塔; Pó Tǎ; Pota Xijie; admission Y10; ☺8am-6pm) This stumpy pagoda is the oldest Buddhist structure in Kāifēng (from 974). The original was a nine-storey hexagonal building, typical of the Northern Song style. The pagoda is clad in tiles decorated with 108 different Buddha images – note that all the Buddhas on the lower levels have had their faces smashed off. The pagoda is all that survives of Tiānqīng Temple (天清寺; Tiānqīng Sì), but worshippers still flock here to burn incense and pray. The Pó Pagoda Temple Fair is held here in April.

You'll find the pagoda hidden down alleyways east of the train station. Cross southward over the railway tracks from Tielubeiyan Jie and take the first alleyway on your left. From here follow the red arrows spray-painted on the walls. Bus 15 gets relatively close; ask the driver to let you off at the right stop, or grab a taxi.

## FREE Kāifēng Museum

MUSEUM

(开封博物馆; Kāifēng Bówùguǎn; 26 Yingbin Lu; ☺9am-noon & 2.30-5.30pm Tue-Sun) The

highlight of the museum is the two notable Jewish stelae on the 4th floor, managed by the **Kaifeng Institute for Research on the History of Chinese Jews** (393 2178, ext 8010), but you will have to pay Y50 to see them. Buses 1, 4, 9 and 23 all travel past here.

### City Walls

HISTORIC SITE

(城墙) Kaifeng is ringed by a relatively intact, much-restored Qing-dynasty wall. Encased with grey bricks, rear sections of the ramparts have been recently buttressed very unattractively with concrete. Today's bastion was built on the foundations of the Song-dynasty **Inner Wall** (内城; Néichéng). Rising up beyond was the mighty, now buried **Outer Wall** (外城; Wàichéng), a colossal construction containing 18 gates, which looped south of the Pó Pagoda, while the **Imperial Wall** (皇城; Huángchéng) protected the imperial palace.

### Lóngtíng Park

PARK

(龙亭公园; Lóngtíng Gōngyuán; 566 0316; Zhongshan Lu; admission Y45; 7am-6.30pm) Site of the former imperial palace, this park is largely covered by lakes, into which hardy swimmers dive in winter. Climb the **Dragon Pavilion** (龙亭; Lóng Tíng) for town views.

### Riverside Scenic Park

#### Qīngmíng Garden

PARK

(清明上河园; Qīngmíng Shànghéyuán; admission Y80; 9am-10pm, performances 9am-7.50pm) High on historical kitsch, this theme park recreates Kaifeng in its heyday, complete with cultural performances, folk art and music demonstrations. Within the park, the **Jewish Cultural Exhibit Center** (9am-6.30pm) is a fascinating foray into Kaifeng's Jewish culture.

### Yánqìng Temple

TAOIST TEMPLE

(延庆观; Yánqìng Guàn; 53 Guanqian Jie; admission Y15; 8am-5.30pm) The modest Taoist Yánqìng Temple dates to 1233. The intriguingly shaped **Tower of the Jade Emperor**, repeatedly buried during the floods, contains a domed ceiling. At the rear is the **Hall of the Three Clear Ones** (三清殿; Sānqīng Diàn), where a trinity of Taoist deities welcomes worshippers.

### Kaifeng Synagogue

RUINS

(开封犹太教堂遗址; Kaifeng Yóutài Jiàotáng Yízhǐ; 59 Beitu Jie) Sadly, nothing remains of the synagogue except a well with an iron lid in the boiler room of the No 4 People's Hos-

pital. The spirit of it lingers, however, in the name of the brick alley immediately south of the hospital – **Jiaojing Hutong** (教经胡同; Teaching the Scripture Alley).

### Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

CHURCH

(耶稣圣心堂; Yésū Shèngxīntáng; cnr Caoshi Jie & Lishiting Jie) Delve along Jiaojing Hutong until it meets the small Caoshi Jie (草市街), then head south and you will soon see the 1917 church's 43m-high spire. If you find the building open, pop in, take a pew and admire the grey-and-white interior.

### Dōngdà Mosque

MOSQUE

(东大寺; Dōngdà Sì; 39 Mujiqiao Jie) South is Kaifeng's main Muslim district, whose landmark place of worship is this Chinese temple-styled mosque. Streets here have colourful names, such as Shaoji Hutong (Roast Chicken Alley).

### Old Guanyin Temple

MONASTERY

(古观音堂; Gǔ Guānyīn Táng; Baiyige Jie; 7.30am-4.20pm) Just northeast of the No 4 People's Hospital is this active and recently rebuilt monastery. The large temple complex includes a notable hall with a twin-eaved umbrella roof, and a sizeable effigy of a recumbent Sakyamuni in its **Reclining Buddha Hall** (卧佛殿; Wòfó Diàn).

### Yellow River Sightseeing Area

SIGHTSEEING AREA

(黄河游览区; Huánghé Yóulǎnqū) This area is about 8km north of North Gate (安达门; Āndá Mén), although there is little to see as the water level is low these days. Bus 6 runs from near the Iron Pagoda to the Yellow River twice daily. A taxi will cost Y50 to Y60 for the return trip.

### Bāogōng Temple

TEMPLE

(包公祠; Bāogōng Cí; admission Y20) Attractively situated on the west shore of Bāogōng Lake.

### Sleeping

Kaifeng's hotel industry is diverse, befitting the town's popularity with travellers. Those on very tight budgets can try their luck at one of the cheap flophouses identified by Chinese signs (look for the characters 住宿); otherwise aim for one of the following. Right at the heart of town, the smart **Soluxe Hotel Kaifeng** (开封阳关道酒店; Kaifeng Yángguāng Jiǔdiàn; 150 9369 6779; Goulou Jie; 鼓楼街) was yet to open at the time of writing but should offer modern business-style rooms at around the Y300 mark. On

the ground floor is an attractive and plush-looking roast-duck restaurant.

### Dàjǐntái Hotel

(大金台宾馆; Dàjǐntái Bīnguǎn; ☎255 2888; fax 255 5189; 23 Gulou Jie; 鼓楼街23号; r Y60, s & d Y130-160; ●) Two-star old-timer combining excellent value with a central location on the very fringe of the bustling night market. Rooms in the No 5 block are cheaper, but grim; rooms in the No 2 block are set back from the street and more pleasant. Winter heating can be sluggish coming on. Breakfast (from 7am to 9am) is included.

### Kāifēng Hotel

HOTEL \$\$  
(开封宾馆; Kāifēng Bīnguǎn; ☎595 5589; fax 595 3086; 66 Zìyou Lu; 自由路66号; s Y260, d Y260-380, deluxe d Y438, discounts of 25%; ●) With its harmonious Chinese roofing and well-tended magnolias, this inviting Russian-built hotel offers a variety of rooms and a central location. The pricier deluxe rooms in the attractive Mènghuá Lóu (Building Two) are lovely, arranged with traditional furniture and large, clean bathrooms; cheaper rooms are in Building Three at the rear.

## Eating & Drinking

### Night Market

STREET MARKET \$  
(古楼夜市; Gǔlóu Yèshì; cnr Gulou Jie & Madao Jie; snacks from Y2; ☺6.30pm-late) Kāifēng's steaming, bustling and bellowing night market is a brilliant performance, especially at weekends. Join the scrum weaving between stalls busy with red-faced popcorn sellers and hollering Hui Muslim chefs cooking up kebabs and *náng* bread. There are also loads of rowdy vendors, from whom you can buy *shāo bǐng* (sesame-seed cakes), cured meats, *chòu gānzi* (臭干子; dry strips of tofu), hearty *jiānbǐng guǒzi* (煎饼裹子; pancake with chopped onions), sweet potatoes, crab kebabs, lamb kebabs, roast rabbit, lobster, *xiāolóngbāo* (Shànghǎi-style dumplings), sugar-coated pears, peanut cake, Thai scented cakes and throwaway cups of sugar-cane juice. Also look out for *yánggròu kàngmó* (羊肉炕馍; lamb in a parcel of bread), a local Kāifēng Muslim speciality. Or opt for *yánggròu chuàn* (羊肉串; lamb kebabs) and ask the chef to stuff them into some *shāobǐng* (bread). The adventurous might slurp *yāxiě tāng* (鸭血汤; duck-blood soup) or try a *yángyǎnchuàn* (羊眼串; sheep's-eye kebab).

Among the flames jetting from ovens and clouds of steam slave vocal vendors of *xìngrénn chá* (杏仁茶; almond tea), a sugary

paste made from boiling water thickened with powdered almond, red berries, peanuts, sesame seeds and crystallised cherries. A bowl costs a mere Y4 or so. Two to three bowls constitute a (very sweet) meal. *Xìngrénn chá* stalls stand out for their unique red pompom-adorned, dragon-spouted copper kettles. Also set out to sample *ròuhé* (肉合), a local snack of fried vegetables and pork or mutton in flat bread; there's also a good vegie version. Join the locals at one of the rickety tables. The market slowly peters out into stalls selling clothes, toys and books.

### Diyǐlóu Bāozi Guǎn

BUNS \$  
(第一楼包子馆; 8 Sīhòu Jie; 10 dumplings Y12; ☺7am-10.30pm) Famed for its *bāozi* (包子; meat-filled buns), this cavernous Kāifēng institution at the centre of town has been in business for years. With cabbage, mushroom and bamboo shoots, the egg soup (鸡蛋汤; *jīdàn tāng*; Y10) alone can feed an army, while the *xiǎolóngbāo* (小笼包; Y12 a steamer), *yánggròu bāozi* (羊肉包子; lamb buns) or *hǎimǐ bāozi* (海米包子; shrimp buns) are all tasty. Sit back with a Bianjing Old Beer (Y12) and listen to evening singers crooning soppy songs.

### Xiǎo Féiyáng

HOTPOT \$\$  
(小肥羊; 1 Yingbin Lu; meals Y50) By the South West Gate, this friendly hotpot restaurant is great if you're a gang of diners. Order up a soup base (Y18 to Y22) - for spicy ask for *lè* (辣), for nonspicy *bù lè* (不辣); for one half spicy, one half nonspicy ask for *yuānyāng* (鸳鸯) - and fling in strips of lamb (羊肉片; *yánggròu piàn*; Y22) and vegetables.

## Information

A number of travellers recommend a local tour guide called Jason (☎159 3850 5092 or 293 3844), who speaks reasonable English and owns a pedicab, with whom you can negotiate a price for tours of Kāifēng. The train-station area is infested with internet cafes.

**Bank of China** (中国银行; Zhōngguó Yínháng) Gulou Jie (64 Gulou Jie); Xi Dajie (cnr Xi Dajie & Zhongshan Lu) There's a 24-hour ATM (MasterCard and Visa) at the Xi Dajie branch.

**CITS** (中国国际旅行社; Zhōngguó Guójí Lǚxíngshè; ☎393 4702; 98 Yingbin Lu; ☺9am-5pm) Just north of the Dōngjīng Hotel, opposite the west long-distance bus station. No maps, and little English spoken.

**China Post** (中国邮政; Zhōngguó Yóuzhèng; Zìyou Lu; ☺8am-5.30pm) West of the Temple of the Chief Minister.

**Industrial & Commercial Bank of China**  
(工商银行; Gōngshāng Yínháng; Gulou Jie) Has a 24-hour ATM.

**Jidi Internet Cafe** (基地网吧; Jidi Wǎngbā; per hr Y3; ☺24hr) Off Zhongshan Lu, just south of the PSB.

**First People's Hospital of Kaifeng** (开封第一人民医院; Kāifēng Dìyī Rénmín Yíyuàn; ☎567 1288; 85 Hedao Jie)

**Public Security Bureau** (PSB; 公安局; Gōng'ānjú; ☎532 2242; 86 Zhongshan Lu; ☺8.30am-noon & 2.30-6pm Mon-Fri) Gets fairly good reviews on visa renewals.

**Xīngjī Internet Cafe** (星际网吧; Xīngjī Wǎngbā; Sihou Jie; per hr Y3; ☺24hr)

**Zhōngxīn Internet Cafe** (中心网吧; Zhōngxīn Wǎngbā; Ziyou Lu; per hr Y2; ☺24hr) West of the Kaifeng Hotel.

**Zhāngzhòngjīng Pharmacy** (张仲景大药房; Zhāngzhòngjīng Dàyàofáng; ☺7.30am-10pm summer, 8am-9pm winter) Next to Shānshāngān Guild Hall.

## Getting There & Away

### Air

The nearest airport is at Zhèngzhōu. Air tickets can be bought at the **IAEA Air Ticket Office** (机票代售点; Tiékù Piào dùdiǎn) next to the PSB; two free daily buses (7am and noon) run to Zhèngzhōu airport from here.

### Bus

Buses run from the **west long-distance bus station** (长途汽车西站; Chángtú Qíchē Xīzhàn):

**Dēngfēng** Y28, four hours, two daily (9.30am and 1pm)

**Luoyang** Y50, three hours, regular services

**Xīnxiāng** Y32, two hours, regular services

**Zhèngzhōu** Y7, 1½ hours, every 15 minutes (6.20am to 7.30pm)

Buses from the **south long-distance bus station** (长途汽车南站; Chángtú Qíchē Nánzhàn), opposite the train station:

**Anyáng** Y54, four hours, regular services

**Luoyang** Y50, three hours, hourly

**Xīnxiāng** Y32, two hours, every 40 minutes

**Zhèngzhōu** Y7, 1½ hours, every 15 minutes

From Zhèngzhōu, buses to Kāifēng leave from the north bus station (p405), but some may leave from the long-distance bus station. When you board in Zhèngzhōu, check where the bus terminates in Kāifēng, as some buses stop at the Temple of the Chief Minister, while others stop at the train station or the west long-distance bus station.

### Train

Kāifēng is on the railway line between Xī'ān and Shànghǎi, with several D-class trains passing through.

**Bēijīng** seat/sleeper Y94/179, 12 hours; goes to Bēijīng West station.

**Luoyang** Y30, 2½ hours

**Shànghǎi** hard/soft seat Y222/278, 6½ hours

**Shíjiāzhuāng** Y128, 80 minutes

**Xī'ān** seat/sleeper Y82/149, eight hours

**Zhèngzhōu** Y22/27, 30 minutes

Tickets can be bought at the **rail-ticket office** (铁路票务中心; Tiélù Piào wù Zhōngxīn; 99 Yingbin Lu; ☺8am-noon & 2-5pm) north of the South West Gate or at the **railway ticket office**

(火车票代售点; huochépiào dài shòudiǎn; ☺8am-noon & 1.30-5.30pm) down the road opposite the Shānshāngān Guild Hall.

## Getting Around

Gulou Jie, Sihou Jie and Shudian Jie are all good for catching buses (Y1). Taxis (flag fall Y5) are the best way to get about; a journey from the train station to the Dàjīntái Hotel should cost around Y5. Avoid pedicabs, as they frequently rip off tourists. Budget hotels may help you rent a bike (Y10 per day).