



A LOCAL EXPERIENCE WITH ELIAS CHEN

# Discover Chongqing

*The mountain city that looks like the future and eats like nobody's watching — seen through a licensed local guide's eyes.*

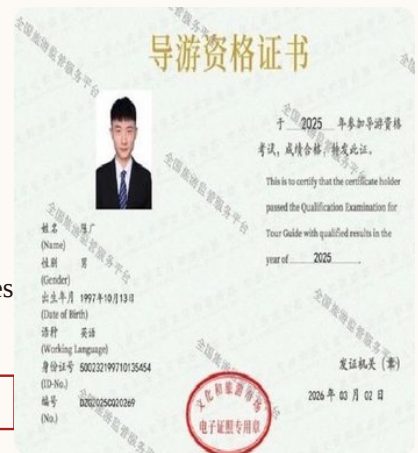
## YOUR GUIDE

### Meet Elias

I'm Elias, born and raised right here in Chongqing, and licensed by the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism to show people around it. Having lived in this mountain city my whole life, I know the postcard spots — but I also know the hidden staircases, the noodle shop with no sign, and the rooftop nobody else will take you to.

My goal isn't to march you past a checklist. It's to help you actually understand why this city looks the way it does, eats the way it does, and moves the way it does — the authentic side, not the postcard.

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT-ISSUED TOUR GUIDE LICENSE



★★★★★

“Elias gave an exceptionally good tour! The communication was easy, he had lots to tell about culture, history, and the modern parts of Chongqing. He speaks very good English, is kind and adapts the tour to individual preferences. He had lots of recommendations and was kind, funny and informative throughout the whole tour. Highly recommend!”

Leon · Guadalajara, Mexico

★★★★★

“Elias is a sincere and thoughtful young guide who clearly loves his city. He shared fascinating insights about Chongqing's history, geography, and culture, making the city much easier to appreciate and understand. He also gave excellent local food recommendations, which helped us enjoy some authentic Chongqing cuisine beyond the usual tourist spots. The tour was informative, enjoyable, and one of the highlights of our trip. Highly recommended!”

Ying Ling · Traveled as a couple

★★★★★

“Elias completely exceeded our expectations! He was incredibly kind, attentive, and knowledgeable, answering all of our questions and sharing so much history and insight about Chongqing. He gave us amazing recommendations for places to visit and local restaurants to try. We cannot recommend Elias enough. If you are visiting Chongqing, booking a tour with him is a must! Thanks for everything, Elias!”

Carla · Traveled as a couple

★★★★★

“I truly enjoyed Elias' tour of Chongqing, his hometown. He is personable, funny and full of interesting information. Loved the tour route which literally took us up and down Chongqing. He was kind enough to offer to take us to see the metro that goes through the building in Chongqing post-tour. A few of us took him up on his offer and ended up having dinner together with Elias. It was an overall wonderful experience.”

Kathy · Fort Lee, NJ, USA

## Your Guide

# Meet Elias

### 01 · Downtown

## The Must-See Icons

*The landmarks you'll regret skipping — the ones your friends back home will ask about whether you visit them or not.*



THE ONE PHOTO EVERYONE TAKES

### Hongya Cave

If you only show one photo of Chongqing to people back home, make it this one. Hongya Cave is an eleven-story stilted building clinging to the cliffs above the Jialing River, and at night, when every window lights up gold, it genuinely looks like something out of an animated film. Come at blue hour rather than after full dark — you'll catch the skyline glowing before the crowds peak.

**GETTING THERE** 12 min walk, or Metro Line 1/6 to Xiaoshizi



**YES, THAT'S A REAL TRAIN**

## Liziba Train Through Building

An actual light-rail train really does drive straight through the middle of a 19-story residential building here. It isn't a stunt built for tourists — it's just how Chongqing solves problems when there's no flat land left to build on. Liziba Station now has its own viewing platform because so many people show up just to watch a train disappear into someone's apartment block.

**GETTING THERE** Metro Line 2 to Liziba, ~20 min



**WHERE TWO RIVERS REFUSE TO MIX**

## Chaotianmen

This is where the muddy Yangtze and the green Jialing physically meet and don't fully blend for a while — a real two-tone waterline locals call the “hotpot view.” Add the wave-shaped Raffles City towers rising right behind it, and you've got the single most photographed skyline shot in the city.

**GETTING THERE** Metro Line 1 to Chaotianmen (terminus), ~10 min; ~5 min by Didi



**A THOUSAND YEARS OLD, STILL LIVED-IN**

## Ciqikou Ancient Town

Ciqikou dates back over a thousand years and still feels lived-in rather than rebuilt for visitors — stone lanes, tea houses, and workshops selling the same snacks locals have eaten for generations. Go early before the tour buses arrive, or come back after dark once the lanterns are lit.

**GETTING THERE** Metro Line 1 to Ciqikou, ~35 min



**DOWNTOWN'S BEATING HEART**

## Jiefangbei · People's Liberation Monument

Jiefangbei is Chongqing's answer to Times Square: a 1940s clock tower now dwarfed by the shopping malls built around it. It's the center of downtown food, shopping, and nightlife, and pretty much every trip to Chongqing passes through it at some point — planned or not.

**GETTING THERE** Starting point

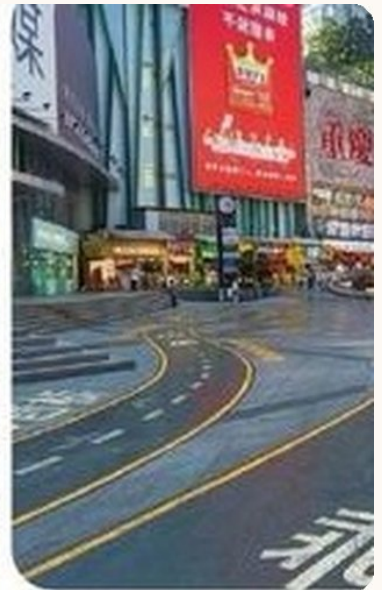


**AN OPTICAL ILLUSION YOU HAVE TO FEEL**

## Kuixing Tower · “Magic Terrain”

This is Chongqing's favorite trick on your brain. Stand in Kuixing Tower Square and you'd swear you're at street level — until you look over the edge and realize you're actually 22 floors up, on the roof of the building below. Photos genuinely don't do the vertigo justice.

**GETTING THERE** 5 min walk (right next to Jiefangbei)



**WHERE LOCALS ACTUALLY GO AT NIGHT**

## Guanyinqiao

If Jiefangbei is downtown's daytime heart, Guanyinqiao is its after-dark one — a forest of LED screens, malls, and late-night restaurants that locals genuinely use, not a tourist recreation of one. A good base if you want nightlife and food within stumbling distance of your hotel.

**GETTING THERE** Metro Line 3 to Guanyinqiao, ~20 min

### 02 · Downtown

## Local Secrets Most Tourists Miss

Once you've hit the icons, this is where a local guide actually earns their keep — the spots that don't show up on the standard tour bus itinerary.



### Baixiangju

A real residential “vertical village” where staircases, bridges, and a cable car link apartment blocks at wild angles — the Yangtze view from the top level is one most visitors never find.

**GETTING THERE** ~10 min by Didi

### Yangtze River Cable Car

Once the locals' daily commute, now a nostalgic ride high above the river with skyline views on both sides.

**GETTING THERE** 10 min walk or Didi



### Longmenhao & Xiahaoli

A restored riverside old town where stone lanes and cafés look straight across the water at Chongqing's glass towers — the best “old meets new” frame in the city.

**GETTING THERE** ~20 min by Didi (across the river)

### Tongyuanmen Ancient City Gate

The last surviving gate of old Chongqing's city wall, with a few weathered stone guardians standing among the modern high-rises.

**GETTING THERE** ~10 min by Didi



### Mountain City Trail

Hillside stairways and lantern-strung alleys that show you how locals actually get around a city built on cliffs.

**GETTING THERE** ~15 min by Didi

### Shibati

A historic lane rebuilt to keep its old-Chongqing character — good for snacking your way through without the ancient-town price markup.

**GETTING THERE** 10 min walk or Didi



### Baolun Temple

A working Buddhist temple tucked inside busy Ciqikou — step through the gate and the noise outside disappears.

**GETTING THERE** Metro Line 1 to Ciqikou, ~35 min

### Fotuguan–Liziba Cliffside Walk

A snaking elevated walkway through the trees connecting two neighborhoods, with river views and almost no crowds.

**GETTING THERE** ~20 min by Didi



### Eling Park

One of the city's oldest parks, on the highest point of the peninsula — climb to Liangjiang Pavilion for a view of both rivers at once.

**GETTING THERE** Metro Line 2 to Daping, ~20 min

### Eling No.2 Factory

An old printing factory turned mural-covered creative park — Chongqing's answer to a warehouse arts district.

**GETTING THERE** Metro Line 2 to Daping, ~20 min



### Huangge Ancient Trail

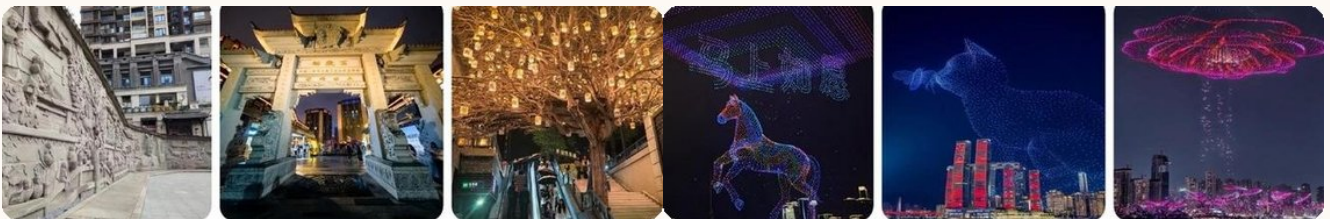
Stone steps and banyan trees along a centuries-old trade route once used by merchants entering the city.

**GETTING THERE** ~30 min by Didi (across the river)

### Laojundong Temple

A cliffside Taoist temple with Yangtze views — come for the quiet, not the crowds.

**GETTING THERE** ~30 min by Didi (across the river)



### Danzishi Old Street

A restored riverside trading street, now terraces and cafés overlooking the skyline — sunset here is underrated.

**GETTING THERE** ~25 min by Didi (across the river)

### Drone Show

Some nights bring 10,000+ drones lighting up the sky above the river — check dates before you plan an evening around it.

**GETTING THERE** Usually over Hongya Cave, 12 min walk



### People's Great Hall

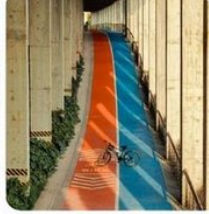
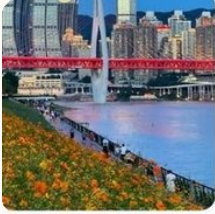
A palace-style 1950s landmark still used for major events, and one of the most photographed buildings in the city, day or night.

**GETTING THERE** Metro Line 2 to Zengjiayan, ~15 min

### Three Gorges Museum

From ancient Ba-Shu bronzes to the story of the Three Gorges Dam — a full, free afternoon if you like history.

**GETTING THERE** Metro Line 2 to Zengjiayan, ~15 min



### North Binjiang Road

A riverside promenade for walking, cycling, and watching the bridges and skyline do their thing at golden hour.

**GETTING THERE** ~20 min by Didi (across the river)

### Chongqing Bell Tower Square

The city's old commercial heart, now a favorite spot to watch Raffles City light up the river at night.

**GETTING THERE** ~12 min by Didi



### Hong'en Temple

A hilltop forest park with a pavilion view that rivals paid observation decks — for free.

**GETTING THERE** ~25 min by Didi

**Want a day built entirely around these hidden corners?**  
I can string together 4–6 of these into one custom half or full day, with food stops between.

## 03 • Beyond the City

# Natural & Historic Wonders

*Most of these are 2–4 hours by car from downtown — genuinely worth the drive, and best done with a private car rather than public transit.*



**TRANSFORMERS FILMED HERE FOR A REASON**

## Wulong Three Natural Bridges

These aren't man-made — they're three colossal stone arches left behind after a cave roof collapsed millions of years ago, big enough that *Transformers: Age of Extinction* filmed here without needing a single visual effect. Numbers don't really capture it; stand at the bottom and the bridges above look like they belong to giants.

**GETTING THERE** ~2.5 hr private car



**A UNESCO SITE THAT DESERVES MORE ATTENTION**

## Dazu Rock Carvings

Thousands of Buddhist and Taoist sculptures carved directly into the cliff face, some over a thousand years old. Put it next to the Longmen or Yungang grottoes for scale and detail, and you'll wonder why it isn't on every "must-see China" list already.

**GETTING THERE** ~1.5 hr private car



**THE FORTRESSTHAT(MAYBE)CHANGEDWORLDHISTORY**

**Diaoyu Fortress**

History nerds, this one's for you: this clifftop fortress held off the Mongol army for 36 years in the 13th century — long enough that some historians credit its defense with reshaping the Mongol advance into Europe, after the Great Khan died during the siege. Today it's quiet and overgrown in parts, and feels like a forgotten battlefield rather than a polished attraction.

**GETTING THERE** ~1.5 hr private car



**ADECLASSIFIEDCOLDWARSECRET**

**Project 816 Nuclear**

A real nuclear fuel plant carved entirely into a mountain and kept secret for decades — one of the largest man-made cave complexes on Earth. Declassified and opened to the public, it's equal parts eerie and fascinating: tunnels, control rooms, and halls that look like a film set, except none of it was built for show.

**GETTING THERE** ~2 hr private car



**Wulong Trench · Longshuixia Gap**

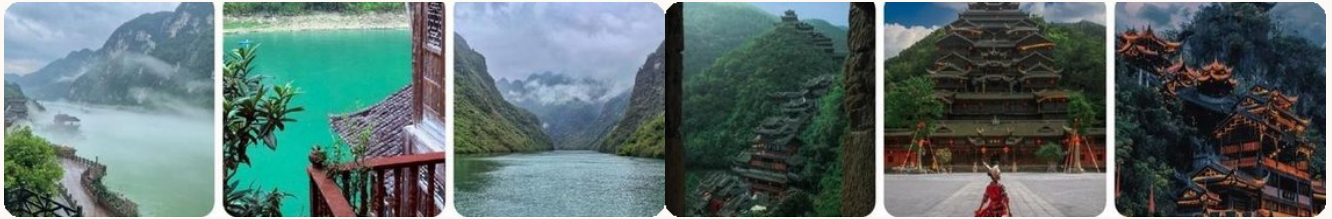
A narrow, dripping karst canyon you walk straight into on wooden boardwalks, past waterfalls and moss-covered cliffs — several degrees cooler than the city, which is reason enough to come in summer.

**GETTING THERE** ~2.5 hr private car (near Three Natural Bridges)

**Wulong Fairy Mountain**

Rolling alpine meadows nicknamed China's "Eastern Switzerland" — horses, grasslands, and mountain air a world away from downtown.

**GETTING THERE** ~2.5 hr private car



### Wujiang Gallery · Gongtan

A thousand-year-old riverside town plus a cruise past cliffs and green water that locals call a natural gallery.

**GETTING THERE** ~3.5 hr private car

### Jiuli City

A cultural complex celebrating Miao heritage, with dramatic wooden architecture built straight into the hillside.

**GETTING THERE** ~3.5 hr private car (near Gongtan)



### Wuling Grand Canyon

A dramatic mountain rift crossed by bridges and stairways — not for those who don't love heights.

**GETTING THERE** ~3 hr private car

### Wansheng Ordovician

Glass bridges, cliffside swings, and bungee jumps built into the mountainside — Chongqing's adrenaline park.

**GETTING THERE** ~1.5 hr private car



### Youyang Taohuayuan

Inspired by the ancient Chinese legend of a hidden paradise — boat rides through cave systems and blossom-lined water.

**GETTING THERE** ~4 hr private car — plan ahead

## 04 · Choose Your Chongqing

# Different Ways to Experience the City

*Chongqing isn't just a skyline. Here's how visitors actually spend their evenings and off-days here.*



### Chongqing Nightlife

Chongqing doesn't sleep early. Between riverside rooftop bars, hotpot theater dinners, and neon-lit clubs, a night out here looks nothing like a “quiet provincial city” — because it isn't one.



## Chongqing Food

Chongqing basically invented hotpot as a competitive sport. Expect fiery mala broth, back-alley noodle shops with no English menu, and meals where the spice level is worn as a badge of honor, not a warning label.



## Rural Chongqing

An hour outside downtown, skyscrapers give way to terraced hills, timber farmhouses, and villagers who still forage, farm, and play chess in the shade — the slower side of the city most tourists never see.



## Adventure Chongqing

For the days you want your heart rate up: glowing cave boat rides, cliffside walkways with drops that make your stomach flip, and helicopter rides over canyons most people only ever see in photos.



## Private Car Tours & Airport Transfers

No metro schedules, no language barrier, no hauling luggage across town. A private car gets you door-to-door, exactly on your own schedule.

## Ready to build your Chongqing itinerary?

Ancient villages, cooking local food like a local, traditional Chinese medicine culture, private car tours, airport transfers — message me and we'll plan it around your dates.

**GetinTouch**

# Let's Plan Your Trip

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Travel times are estimates from Jiefangbei Apple Store; actual times vary with traffic and schedules.