

# Visa-free policy brings Chengdu biz, tourism boost

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Making national headlines several times, Chengdu's 72-hour visa-free policy has attracted wide attention from both Chinese and foreign experts and businessmen since it took effect on Sept 1 last year.

The program permits citizens from 51 countries and regions including the United States, Australia, Canada and Japan who have valid visas and flight tickets to a third country to spend three days in the city.

The capital of Sichuan province is the first city in the western region of China to offer foreign tourists a three-day visa and the fourth nationwide to adopt the policy following Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou.

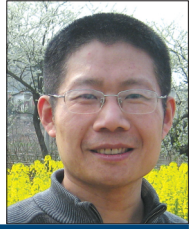
Li Zhiyong, deputy dean of the tourism institute at Sichuan University, said the move "contributes to a large increase in the number of overseas tourists and raises the city's level of internationalization".

"The policy will also bring direct economic revenue," Li said. "Chengdu has

**72-HOUR VISA-FREE**

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LI ZHIYONG  
DEPUTY DEAN, TOURISM INSTITUTE  
SICHUAN UNIVERSITY



**"Chengdu is a place that you never want to leave once settling down. It is now my second hometown."**

ZHAO YUN  
CHAIRWOMAN, BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SOUTHWEST CHINA



many cultural legacies and is also a paradise for panda lovers with the world's largest breeding and research center. Three days are long enough for foreign visitors to visit those iconic tourist spots," he noted.

The city is home to the remains of the Jinsha civilization that dates back more than 3,000 years as well as the Qingcheng Mountains and the Dujiangyan irrigation system.

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

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

But, Li added that efforts are still needed to develop more tourism products, improve English services and provide accurate translation of traffic signs and scenic billboards.

Zhao Yun, chairwoman of British Chamber of Commerce Southwest China, told China Daily that his colleagues found the policy very convenient.

"A British client once flew here and stayed for just one day to check her

ordered goods," she said.

Zhao was born in Shanxi province, but she has lived in Chengdu for more than 10 years.

"My life was like a running race moving from place to place. I also lived in Beijing and Shanghai before," she said. "But Chengdu is a place that you never want to leave once settling down. It is now my second hometown," she said.

If the environment is further improved, the city will attract more people to visit and live, with the 72-hour visa-free policy and compelling conditions in transportation, culture, climate and cuisine, he said.

Foreigners also gave positive feedback on the policy.

A spokesman from Dell Inc said the company has a global hub of operation in Chengdu, so the three-day visa "has an immediate and positive influence on the company's business development".

Rudy Buttignol, president of the public broadcasting company in

British Columbia, Canada, said his work requires frequent travel to Chengdu and the policy "makes the trips easier".

Data from the city's public security bureau shows some 100 foreign visitors enjoyed the 72-hour policy by the end of March, most of them from the United States, the United

Kingdom and Germany.

Chengdu also reported robust growth in its overall tourist industry last year. Official statistics show that it received some 150 million tourists last

year, an increase of 28 percent from 2012. Around 1.7 million came from abroad, an increase of 12 percent. Total revenue from tourism surpassed 133 billion yuan (\$21.7 billion).

**NUMBERS**

**150 million**  
tourists last year

**51**  
countries and regions' residents are eligible for a 72-hour visa



Sunbird logo derived from a 3,000-year-old disc made by the Jinsha civilization found in the city's western suburbs. It has been hailed as one of the major archeological discoveries in China.



Pingle ancient town is a popular rural attraction in Chengdu.



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**Villas for Rent in Beijing**

- |  |  |  |   |   |  |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Airport Expressway Area</b><br>Chateau Regalia<br>4Br. 324sqm ¥ 33,000<br>4+1Br. 470sqm ¥ 40,000<br>Dynasty Garden<br>5Br. F 420sqm ¥ 35,000<br>5Br. H 600sqm ¥ 45,000<br>4Br. H 700sqm ¥ 50,000<br>Rits Garden<br>4Br. 400sqm ¥ 40,000<br>4Br. H 550sqm ¥ 48,000 | <b>Australian Garden</b><br>4Br. 350/400sqm ¥ 33,000<br>4Br. 500sqm ¥ 35,000<br><b>LA GRANDE VILLA</b><br>4Br. 270sqm ¥ 20,000<br>4Br. 380sqm ¥ 33,000<br><b>Jing Shun Road Close to WAB</b><br><b>Beijing Riviera</b><br>4Br. A 402sqm ¥ 48,000<br>4Br. B 405sqm ¥ 48,000 | 4+1Br. C 294sqm ¥ 40,000<br>3Br. D 251sqm ¥ 32,000<br><b>Lane Bridge Villa</b><br>4Br. 375sqm ¥ 36,000<br>6Br. 430sqm ¥ 48,000<br><b>Orchid Garden</b><br>4Br. 275sqm ¥ 29,000<br>4Br. 310sqm ¥ 32,000<br>4Br. 400sqm ¥ 36,000<br><b>Grand Hills</b><br>4Br. C 502sqm ¥ 55,000 | 4Br. N 558sqm ¥ 65,000<br>6Br. J 800sqm ¥ 120,000<br><b>Quan Fa Garden</b><br>4Br. 280sqm ¥ 25,000<br>5Br. 650sqm ¥ 30,000<br><b>Jing Shun Road Close to ISB</b><br><b>Yosemite</b><br>4Br. B1 498sqm ¥ 48,000<br>4Br. B4 564sqm ¥ 60,000<br>4Br. B3 596sqm ¥ 62,000<br>4Br. C2 389sqm ¥ 40,000 | 4Br. C9 356sqm ¥ 38,000<br>3Br. 162sqm ¥ 16,000<br>4Br. 229sqm ¥ 23,000<br><b>River Garden Villa</b><br>3Br. A 250sqm ¥ 30,000<br>4Br. C 300sqm ¥ 33,000<br>5Br. F 400sqm ¥ 48,000<br><b>Dragon Bay Villa</b><br>4Br. 300sqm ¥ 25,000<br>4Br. 450sqm ¥ 38,000<br>4Br. 550sqm ¥ 50,000 | <b>Rose and Ginkgo Villas</b><br>4Br. 350sqm ¥ 36,000<br>4Br. 475sqm ¥ 50,000<br><b>Courtyards for Rent</b><br><b>Houhai Courtyard</b><br>4Br. 320sqm ¥ 60,000<br><b>Gulou Courtyards</b><br>3Br. 230sqm ¥ 30,000<br><b>Wangfujing Courtyard</b><br>4Br. 320sqm ¥ 35,000 |
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Yosemite - 忧山美地 ¥40,000  
Dragon Bay Villa - 龙湾别墅 ¥50,000  
Rits Garden (A) - 丽苑花园 ¥38,000  
Orchid Garden - 卓锦万代 ¥32,000  
Rose and Ginkgo - 龙湖锦澜山 ¥40,000  
River Garden Villa (II, A) - 裕京花园 ¥31,000  
Beijing Riviera (C) - 香江花园 ¥48,000

**Apartments for Rent in Beijing**

- |   |  |   |  |   |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| <b>CBD Area</b><br>Central Park (I-II)<br>2Br. 138sqm ¥ 18,000<br>3Br. 148sqm ¥ 23,000<br>3Br. 198sqm ¥ 28,000<br>4Br. 265sqm ¥ 43,000<br>4Br. 465sqm ¥ 90,000<br>Central Park (III)<br>2Br. 140sqm ¥ 20,000<br>3+1Br. 171sqm ¥ 28,000<br>3Br. 188sqm ¥ 28,000<br>3+1Br. 220sqm ¥ 38,000<br>Central Park (IV)<br>2Br. 138sqm ¥ 20,000 | 3Br. 188sqm ¥ 31,000<br>4Br. 264sqm ¥ 42,000<br>4Br. 286sqm ¥ 45,000<br><b>Global Trade Mansion</b><br>2Br. 171sqm ¥ 18,000<br>3Br. 171sqm ¥ 18,000<br>3Br. 180sqm ¥ 20,000<br>3Br. 256sqm ¥ 25,000<br><b>Fortune Plaza</b><br>2Br. 138sqm ¥ 13,000<br>2Br. 166sqm ¥ 15,000<br>3Br. 205sqm ¥ 19,000<br>3Br. 253sqm ¥ 28,000<br><b>CBD Private Castle</b><br>2Br. 150sqm ¥ 14,000 | 3Br. 170sqm ¥ 18,000<br>3Br. 230sqm ¥ 26,000<br><b>Xanadu Apartment</b><br>1+1Br. 110sqm ¥ 14,000<br>2+1Br. 175sqm ¥ 24,000<br><b>China Center Place</b><br>2Br. 135sqm ¥ 13,000<br>3Br. 213sqm ¥ 20,000<br><b>Gemdale Int'l Garden</b><br>2Br. 112sqm ¥ 15,000<br>2Br. 200sqm ¥ 23,000<br><b>Sanlitun Area</b><br>Guangcai Int'l Apartment<br>3Br. 217sqm ¥ 22,000 | 4Br. 270sqm ¥ 32,000<br><b>SanlitunSOHO</b><br>2Br. 154sqm ¥ 19,000<br>3Br. 182sqm ¥ 23,000<br>3+1Br. 249sqm ¥ 31,000<br><b>Shimao Int'l Center</b><br>studio 78sqm ¥ 11,000<br>1Br. 107sqm ¥ 15,000<br>1+1Br. 136sqm ¥ 21,000<br><b>Joy court</b><br>1Br. 129sqm ¥ 14,000<br>3Br. 192sqm ¥ 28,000<br><b>Richmond Park</b><br>2Br. 120sqm ¥ 12,000<br>3Br. 188sqm ¥ 16,000 | 2Br. 150sqm ¥ 15,000<br>3Br. 185sqm ¥ 15,000<br>4Br. 210sqm ¥ 24,000<br>4Br. 280sqm ¥ 28,000<br><b>Upper East Side - Binhe</b><br>3Br. 206sqm ¥ 25,000<br>5Br. 390sqm ¥ 42,000<br><b>Upper East Side - Andersen</b><br>2Br. 150sqm ¥ 19,000<br>3Br. 234sqm ¥ 28,000<br>4Br. 288sqm ¥ 33,000<br><b>Upper East Side</b><br>2Br. 120sqm ¥ 12,000<br>3Br. 188sqm ¥ 16,000 | 3Br. 240sqm ¥ 33,000<br>4Br. 324sqm ¥ 43,000<br><b>Lido Serenity City</b><br>2Br. 112sqm ¥ 12,000<br>3Br. 170sqm ¥ 19,000<br>4Br. 220sqm ¥ 33,000<br><b>Lufthansa Area</b><br><b>United Apartment</b><br>2Br. 166sqm ¥ 18,000<br>3Br. 196sqm ¥ 20,000<br>4Br. 226sqm ¥ 22,000<br><b>Chevalier</b><br>3+1Br. 220sqm ¥ 22,000<br>4Br. 296sqm ¥ 31,000 | 3Br. 150sqm ¥ 17,000<br>4Br. 250sqm ¥ 35,000<br><b>MOMA - MOMA</b><br>2Br. 142sqm ¥ 16,000<br>3Br. 245sqm ¥ 25,000<br>4Br. 305sqm ¥ 32,000<br><b>POP MOMA</b><br>2+1Br. 171sqm ¥ 22,000<br>3Br. 205sqm ¥ 25,000<br><b>Chaoyang Park Area</b><br><b>Greentake Place</b><br>3Br. 180sqm ¥ 16,000<br>4Br. 260sqm ¥ 28,000<br>4Br. 298sqm ¥ 30,000 | <b>Palm Springs</b><br>2Br. 138sqm ¥ 17,000<br>3Br. 180sqm ¥ 23,000<br>3Br. 220sqm ¥ 28,000<br>4Br. 370sqm ¥ 45,000<br><b>Park Avenue</b><br>2Br. 173sqm ¥ 19,000<br>3Br. 173sqm ¥ 23,000<br>3Br. 210sqm ¥ 30,000<br>3Br. 250sqm ¥ 33,000<br>4Br. 290sqm ¥ 41,000<br>4Br. 370sqm ¥ 48,000<br>4Br. 650sqm ¥ 120,000<br><b>Oceanwide Int'l</b> | 3Br. 199sqm ¥ 20,000<br>4Br. 250sqm ¥ 30,000<br><b>Beijing Golf Palace</b><br>3Br. 270sqm ¥ 33,000<br>4Br. 310sqm ¥ 55,000<br><b>Boya Garden</b><br>2Br. 130sqm ¥ 12,000<br>3Br. 170sqm ¥ 15,000<br>4Br. 228sqm ¥ 21,000<br><b>Park Apartment</b><br>3+1Br. 245sqm ¥ 31,000<br>3+1Br. 265sqm ¥ 34,000<br><b>Parkview Tower</b><br>4Br. 300sqm ¥ 33,000 |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|



Central Park (I) - 新城国际 ¥43,000  
Boya Garden - 博雅园 ¥20,000  
Seasons Park - 海晟名苑 ¥30,000  
United Apartment - US联邦公寓 ¥23,000  
SanlitunSOHO - 三里屯 SOHO ¥30,000  
Beijing Golf Palace - 高尔夫公寓 ¥34,000  
Palm Springs - 棕榈泉 ¥25,000



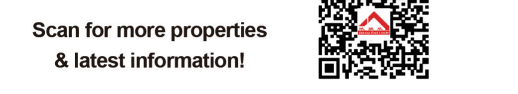
Park Avenue - 公园大道 ¥31,000  
Fortune Heights - 财富中心 ¥55,000  
East Avenue - 逸盛阁 ¥21,000  
CBD Private Castle - 圣世一品 ¥27,000  
Pop Moma - 当代 Moma ¥27,000  
Hopson Xiaoyun Road No.8 - 合生霄云路8号 ¥100,000  
Park Apartment - 天安豪园 ¥36,000

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