



KUNMING: CITY OF ETERNAL SPRING

昆明



KUNMING: BASIC INFORMATION		World Rank	Similar To
Urban Area Population (2010)	3,070,000	111	Kano, Seattle, Curitiba
Projection (2025)	4,000,000	107	Athens, Melbourne, Porto Alegre
Urban Land Area: Square Miles	130	256	Abidjan, Sendai, Fresno
Urban Land Area: Square Kilometers	520		
Density: Per Square Mile ¹	23,100	229	Ekateranburg, Bangalore, Santo Domingo
Density: Per Square Kilometer	8,900		
*Continuously built up area (Urban agglomeration) Land area & density rankings among the approximately 800 urban areas with 500,000+ population. Data from <i>Demographia World Urban Areas</i> (http://www.demographia.com/db-worldua.pdf)			

28 March 2010

Basics

Kunming is the capital of China's Yunnan province, which borders on Myanmar (Burma), Vietnam and Laos. Kunming is the western-most urban area in China with more than 3,000,000 residents. Kunming is known as China's "spring" city, because of its year-round spring-like temperatures, the result of its temperate latitude and relatively high elevation (6000 feet/1900 meters). Kunming was also the terminus of the "Burma Road," which was important to Allied operations during World War II.

The Setting

Kunming is located on picturesque Lake Dian (Slides 6-10 and 57-59). Kunming is also surrounded by hills that add to the attractiveness of the area. Unlike many lakeside urban areas, however, Kunming's core is located well away from the water.

Location and Access: Kunming is located 1200 to 1300 miles (1800 to 2000 kilometers) west of Shanghai or Beijing. Kunming is approximately 400 miles (650 kilometers) south of Chongqing. Kunming is on a plateau

¹ Density is calculated using the mid-point population between the base year estimate and the latest estimate as projected from the base year. See [Demographia World Urban Areas](http://www.demographia.com/db-worldua.pdf).

surrounded by some of the world's most important river drainage areas, the Yangtze, the Mekong, the Red and the Xi-Pearl.

China has a single time zone, over an east to west distance that has five time zones to the north. As a result of being in the same time zone as China's east coast, single-day business trips can easily be made to and from Kunming, without losing hours during time zone changes on the way.

China's first international freeway, the Kunming to Bangkok Expressway is under construction, which will connect Thailand with China's extensive national freeway system.

The Core

Kunming is visibly less prosperous than the affluent urban areas of the east (Beijing, the Yangtze River Delta and the Pearl River Delta and even compared to the more westerly urban areas of Chongqing, Xi'an and Chengdu. But there are visible signs of an improving economy. The central business district has a number of mid-rise buildings, though none of the spectacular high-rise buildings that are evident in Chongqing, Chengdu, Shenyang or the east coast urban monoliths. As in all Chinese urban areas, there is plenty of traffic, though like other western urban areas, Kunming has more bicycle traffic than on the east coast (still, however, the bicycle traffic is relatively light and apparently far below the pre-automobile levels typical of the 1980s). Motorbike and electric motorbike (E-Bike) use is increasing in Kunming, as across China (Slide 26).

Residential Development

Like other Chinese urban areas, Kunming has its share of "standard issue" multi-unit buildings, with bay windows (Slide 34). The distinguishing feature of these buildings between urban areas is their height. In Kunming, these buildings are often only 5 floors in height, while in the larger urban areas the same designs may be 9 stories). The nicest residential areas in Kunming, including some of the largest villa developments (detached housing) in China are between Kunming's core and the lake (Slides 7 & 62). Perhaps only the northwestern suburbs of Guangzhou have more villas.

Cities in China ([Urban Definitions](#))

Analysts are often confused by the "city" terminology used in China. No "city" illustrates this more than the municipality of Chongqing, by virtue of its overwhelming size and population, the vast majority of which is rural (not urban). Cities in China are regions.

The following, from our article in *NewGeography.com* elaborates on the term "city" and misunderstandings surrounding it (Source: <http://www.newgeography.com/content/001076-on-cities-ghg-emissions-apples-oranges>).

Whenever someone starts talking about "cities," it is best to ask what they mean. The word "cities" has so many meanings and is subject to such confusion that I generally avoid using it.

"Cities" might be municipalities, such as the city of [New York](#) or the ville de Paris.

Cities could be urban areas (urbanized areas or urban agglomerations), which are the urban footprints one observes from an airplane on a clear night.

- *"Cities" could be metropolitan areas, which are labor markets and are generally larger than urban areas, because people commute from rural areas (outside the urban footprint) to work in the urban area.*

- *In nearly the entire world, with the exception of China, urban areas and metropolitan areas are larger than municipalities.*

Or, “cities” could be used in the sense of Chinese prefectural, sub-provincial or provincial level cities, which tend to be far larger than any reasonable definition of a metropolitan area. Nearly all of China is divided into cities, in the same way that most of the United States is divided into counties.

These Chinese “cities” themselves often contain county level “cities” that are separate from the principal urban areas.

These differing definitions of municipalities make any international comparison of these entities difficult and often misleading. The ville de Paris represents barely 20 percent of the [Paris](#) region. The “city” of Atlanta represents barely 10 percent of its metropolitan area. The “city” of Melbourne represents only 5 percent of its metropolitan area. Yet, other “cities” are larger than their metropolitan areas, such as Chongqing, China, which has at least five times the population of its genuine metropolitan area (the “city” covers an area the size of Austria or Indiana). The city of San Antonio, with its vast stretches of suburbanization is surely not comparable to the city of Hartford, which is dominated by an urban core.

Any genuine comparison of “cities” must be at the metropolitan area or urban area level. These definitions both represent the city as the organism it is, rather than simply the happenstance of municipal boundaries. Of course, comparisons must be either between metropolitan areas or urban areas to be valid. It will not do to compare metropolitan areas with urban areas; they are as apples and oranges. Moreover, there are no international standards for delineation of metropolitan areas, which makes metropolitan comparisons more complex.

[Description of the Series](#)

[The Megacity Book](#)

[World Urban Areas: Population & Density of All Urban Areas over 500,000](#)

<http://www.rentalcartours.net>

<http://www.demographia.com>

<http://www.publicpurpose.com>

DEMOGRAPHIA



KUNMING RENTAL CAR TOUR

The Setting

























The Center









环城南路
HUANCHENG South Rd
环城西路 ← → 环城东路

102.8
环城南路



大羊米线
蒸饺 水饺 馄饨 包子 红烧牛肉面 焖肉土鸡

太极通按摩院

透骨理筋法按摩

西式

招女工两名

大羊米线
煮品类
羊肉米线 韭菜 馄饨 大小
红烧牛肉面 米线 馄饨 碗
土鸡米线 面条 馄饨 碗
焖肉米线 面条 馄饨 碗
杂酱米线 面条 馄饨 碗
鱼米线 面条 馄饨 碗
清汤馄饨 酸辣馄饨 碗
炒米线 面条 馄饨 碗
面食类
鲜肉包 8个 4元
鲜肉包 10个 5元
鲜肉白菜包 8个 4元
鲜肉白菜包 10个 5元
鲜肉芹菜包 8个 4元
鲜肉芹菜包 10个 5元































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Lakeside





















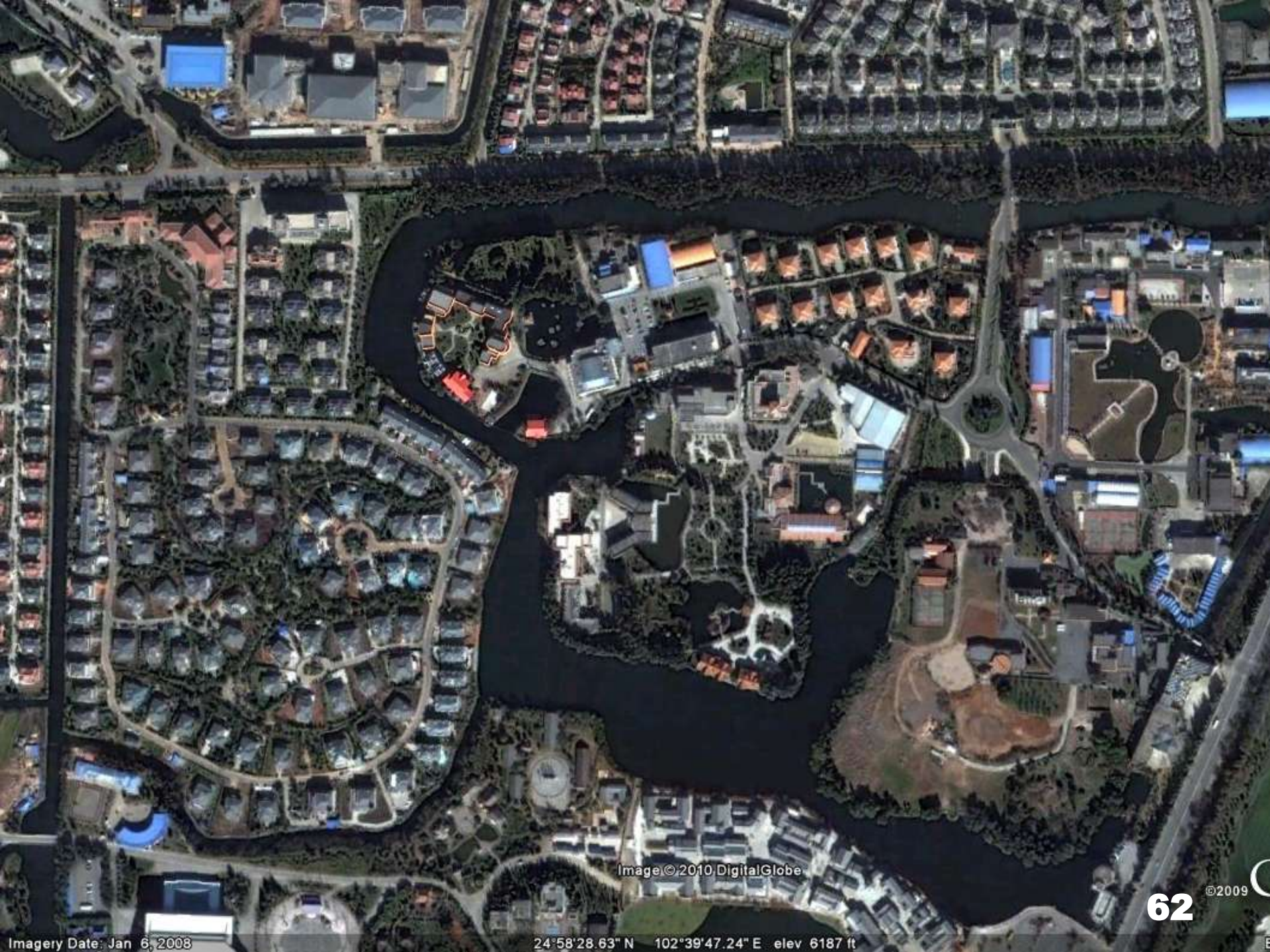


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