



The Yangtze River

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- Is the longest river in China and third longest river in the world (6,380 km / 3,900 miles) ;
- Is also the third largest river in the world by volume, fueled by rainfall and glacial melt in the summer ;
- Flows through **8** provinces, **1** autonomous region and **2** municipalities;
- Valley is home to **1/3** of China's population (**1/15th** of the world's population) ;
- Is the largest river system in the world with over **700** tributary rivers which usually contain clear green water ;
- Washes **250** million tons of silt away each year.

The Chinese name for the Yangtze is **Chang Jiang 长江** , which means " Long River " .

In fact , there are seven different names for seven different parts along the Yangtze River:

Upper Reaches – un-navigable with drastic elevation changes

1. **Murmuring Stream:** the Yangtze runs from **Mt. Geladandong** (with an elevation of 6621m / 20,000ft), the principal peak of the Tanggula Mountain System on Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.
2. **River leading to heaven:** River coming from the sky.
3. **Golden Sand Rive:** Three Great Rivers; First Bend on the Yangtze; Tiger Leaping Gorge.
4. **Sichuan River:** in the Sichuan Basin from Yibin to Yichang (containing the **Three Gorges** and TGD).

Middle Reaches – smoother current but under severe flood threat

5. **Jing River:** the **breadbasket** making up the entire middle reaches, **Dongting Lake**.

Lower Reaches – easy sailing with no one-way passages

6. **Xunyang River:** the Poyang Lake meets the river, " **land of fish and rice** " .
7. **Yangtze River:** the section between **Yangzhou** and **Shanghai** close to the sea, named after Emperor Sui Yangdi.

The Three Gorges: from Fengjie to Yichang (193km / 125miles), each has its own characters:

The **Qutang Gorge** --- 8km /5miles long and famous for being the most **magnificent**.

The **Wu Gorge** --- 45km /27miles long and known for being the most **beautiful**.

The **Xiling Gorge** --- 76km /47miles long and historically known as the most **dangerous**.

Recommended Reading and Movie:

- **Yangzi River: The Yangtze and The Three Gorges** by Richard Hayman, Kevin Bishop
- **The River at the Center of the World** by Simon Winchester
- **River Town – Two Years on the Yangtze** by Peter Hessler
- **Before the Deluge** by Deirdre Chatham
- **A Single Pebble** by John Hersey
- **Still Life (movie)** directed by Jia Zhang-ke

