

# THREE GORGES OF THE YANGTZE RIVER

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长江三峡

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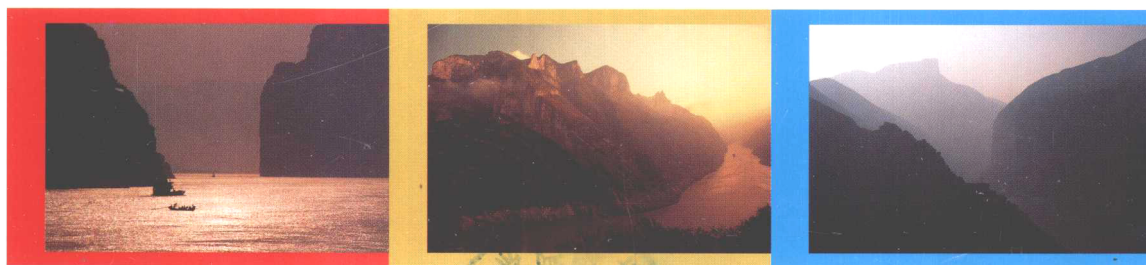
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## 三峡工程水位线示意图 A Chart Showing

The current water level at Kuimen is 90 meters 夔门目前夏季水位90米





# The Water Level of the Three Gorges Project







长江，是位居尼罗河和亚马孙河之后的世界第三大河，为中国第一大河。它与黄河共同被称为中华民族的摇篮，孕育了两河流域文化，开创了悠久灿烂的中华文明。长江从海拔6000米的青海省西南边境唐古拉山脉各拉丹雪山发源，流经11个省、自治区、直辖市，全长6300公里，在我国的锦绣大地上，构筑了魅力无穷的独特景观。长江，源远流长，迂回盘旋，浩荡东去，归海入洋，形成一幅雄伟绚丽的历史画卷。

长江流经四川盆地东缘时，受对面南北走向的巫山阻拦。长江以雷霆万钧之势，辟开巫山的崇岩峻岭，形成了气势磅礴、惊心动魄的长江三峡风光。三峡由瞿塘峡、巫峡、西陵峡组成，它西起重庆奉节县的白帝城，东至湖北省宜昌南津关，全长193公里，是世界上最大峡谷之一。

整个三峡河谷，造型壮丽，布局精美。宽谷、狭谷相间，交错排列，前后呼应，融为一体。宽谷地段，江面开阔，风光无限；狭谷地段，岸壁峻峭，狭窄如线，急流奔泻，惊险万状。瞿塘峡雄奇险峻，巫峡幽深秀丽，西陵峡滩险水急，三大峡谷各具特色。三峡景观还可概括为瞿塘“雄”，巫峡“秀”，西陵“险”。“雄秀险”三个字生动形象地概括了三峡的美学特征。

瞿塘峡，又名夔峡，西起奉节县白帝城，东至巫山县大溪镇，全长8公里，是三峡中最短、最窄、最雄伟险峻的峡谷，有“镇全川之水，扼巴鄂咽喉”之誉。高达1300多米的赤甲山、白盐山耸峙峡口两岸。北岸的赤甲山呈红色，南岸的白盐山为灰白色，山形如同刀削斧劈，直立江中，仿佛一扇巨门，名为夔门，素有“夔门天下雄”之称。远眺两山，一如仙桃凌空，一如玉宇万仞，形成瞿塘一大奇观。山高峡窄，云天一线，江面最

窄处不到100米，江水以极快的流速和流量，呼啸而来，夺门而出，形成“众水会涪(陵)万(县)，瞿塘争一门”的壮丽景色。既有“峰与天交接，舟从地窟行”的意境，又有“岸似双屏合，天如匹练开”的优美造型，白帝城、孟良梯、风箱峡等则是峡区的著名景观。

出瞿塘峡东口，穿过一段长约25公里的大宁河宽谷，便进入了高峰重叠、幽深秀丽的巫峡。它从重庆市巫山县大宁河口到湖北巴东县官渡口，绵延40公里。峡区内奇峰突兀，怪石嶙峋，削壁屏列，绵延不断，是三峡中最整齐的峡谷，宛如画廊一般。“放舟下巫峡，心在十二峰”，巫山十二峰，耸立长江两岸，吸引了古今中外的无数游人。唐诗人刘禹锡曾有“巫山十二郁苍苍，片石亭亭号女郎”诗作。巫峡北岸峰顶有一突兀石柱，挺拔秀丽，宛如亭亭玉立的少女，得名神女峰。又因它处在群峰之巅，每日第一个迎来朝霞，最后一个送走晚霞，又称望霞峰。中国历史上许多美丽的神话传说更是为神女峰增添了迷人的色彩。出巫峡东口便是香溪宽谷，长约50公里，这里有战国时期爱国诗人屈原的墓地和建有屈原庙的屈原沱，以及汉元帝妃子王昭君曾经浣洗的香溪。

大宁河小三峡，由龙门峡、巴雾峡、滴翠峡组成，全长50公里。峡谷中，群峰壁立，水清河浅，滩险浪急。游客可乘船观赏古朴的峡谷风光、古代悬棺、古栈道遗址，以及猴群、野鸭、鸳鸯、白鹳等野生动物。小三峡集山雄、峰秀、滩险、水清、景幽、石美、流急于一身，有“三峡山水甲天下，宁河山水甲三峡”之美誉。大宁河小三峡，是进行漂流活动的最佳地点。

西陵峡，西起秭归县香溪河口，东至宜昌市南津关，全长约120公里，中间有一段庙南宽谷，

长约31公里，将西陵峡分为东西两段。西陵峡西段，自东而西依次为兵书宝剑峡、牛肝马肺峡、崆岭峡。西陵峡东段，由灯影峡和黄猫峡组成。西陵峡过去急流险滩众多，有“西陵滩如竹节稠，滩滩都是鬼见愁”之说。经过整治，这些险滩已不复存在。著名的三峡大坝建在庙南宽谷中三斗坪的中堡岛处，三峡景观将随着三峡水利工程的进程而形成新的风貌。

长江三峡水利枢纽工程包括一座混凝土重力式大坝、一座坝后式水电站、一座永久性通航船闸和垂直升船机。三峡拦河大坝全长2309米，高185米。正常冬季蓄水水位为海拔175米，比截流前提高100米左右。三峡水库将是一座长达600公里，面积达1000平方公里，水面最宽处近2000米的峡谷型水库，库区总容量达393亿立方米，总装机容量1920万千瓦，年平均发电量846.8亿度。三峡工程计划于2009年完工。2003年前，长江三峡主要景点基本不受影响。2003年后，继之出现一批新景观。三峡风貌依然光彩照人：夔门雄风犹在，巫峡秀美如常，神女峰神韵不减。2009年后将形成水波浩淼的“高峡平湖”，展露在世人面前的将是一个以峡谷风光为主体，湖光山色为基调、巴渝文化为内涵的新景区。建成后的三峡大坝，也将以世界第一水利工程的雄姿与盛名吸引八方游客，成为旅游热点。未来的三峡将是一个集旅游观光、追思怀古、科技工程、文化研究、民俗采风于一体的辐射广、层面多、服务功能齐全的综合旅游风景区、黄金旅游线路。

长江新三峡正在掀开神秘的面纱，一个更加美好的长江新三峡即将呈现于世。



The Changjiang (Yangtze) River is the longest river in China and the third longest in the world, next only to the Nile and Amazon rivers. Both the Changjiang and Huanghe (Yellow) rivers are referred to as cradles of the Chinese nation, giving rise to the culture of the two river valleys and the time-honored brilliant Chinese civilization. The Changjiang River has its source in the Geladaindong Snow Mountain, the main peak of the Tanggula Range, which stands 6,000 meters above sea level on the southwestern border of Qinghai Province. The river flows 6,300 kilometers in eight provinces, one autonomous region, and two municipalities directly under the jurisdiction of the central government. It features a unique landscape before emptying into the East China Sea.

As the Changjiang River snakes along the eastern fringe of Sichuan Basin, the Wushan Mountains straddle from south to north to block the way. The mighty Changjiang cuts through mountains with an irresistible force and forms a magnificent landscape, the landscape of the Three Gorges. The Three Gorges are composed of Qutang, Wuxia, and Xiling gorges. The section of the Changjiang in the Three Gorges area extends 193 kilometers, forming the largest gorge area in the world.

The river valleys in the Three Gorges present a magnificent view when the river course broadens and narrows alternatively. In

the broad valley, the river has a wide channel and features an enchanting landscape. When it comes to the narrow valley, the river flows swiftly in a narrow channel flanked by steep cliffs on both sides and presents a dangerous scene. Qutang Gorge is known for its magnificence and precipitousness, Wuxia Gorge, for its serenity and beauty, and Xiling Gorge, for its swift currents and rapids.

Also called Kuixia Gorge, the eight-kilometer-long Qutang Gorge starts from Baidicheng in Fengjie County in the west and terminates in Daxi Town of Wushan County in the east. It is the shortest, the narrowest, and the most magnificent of the Three Gorges. It is referred to as a gorge that "guards all the waters in Sichuan Province and holds a strategic point between Sichuan and Hubei provinces." Chijia Mountain rises 1,300 meters above sea level and Baiyan Mountain closes in from both sides at the entrance to Qutang Gorge. Chijia Mountain on the northern bank is reddish brown, and the sheer Baiyan Mountain on the southern bank is white gray and resembles a huge door leaf called Kuimen Gate and known as the "majestic Kuimen under heaven." Viewed from a distance, Chijia Mountain looks like a peach in mid-air and Baiyan Mountain, a huge heap of salt, a wonderful sight on Qutang Gorge. There the river channel narrows, with the narrowest spot being less than 100 meters, and water rushes downstream through Kuimen

turbulently. It seems that the two mountains are sky high like two screens and boats sails under the sky that are as narrow as a bolt of white silk. The better-known scenic spots on Qutang Gorge are Baidicheng, Mengliangti, and Fengxiang Gorge.

Out of the eastern exit of Qutang Gorge, the river flows past a 25-kilometer-long broad valley on the Daning River before it reaches Wuxia Gorge. The secluded, picturesque Wuxia Gorge stretches for 40 kilometers between the mouth of the Daning River in Wushan County, Chongqing Municipality and Guandukou in Badong County, Hubei Province. Strange-shaped peaks that rise abruptly over the water, jagged rocks of grotesque shapes, and a dense array of sheer cliffs form a landscape as beautiful as a painting corridor. There are 12 peaks in the Wushan Mountains that overlook the Changjiang River from both banks at Wuxia Gorge. These mountain peaks have attracted numerous tourists, Chinese and foreign, since ancient times. "Verdant are the 12 peaks of the Wushan Mountains, and they look as graceful as young girls." This is a line in a verse composed by Liu Yuxi, a poet of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), in praise of the beauty of the mountain peaks. There is a peak on the northern bank of the Changjiang River. It has a solitary stone pillar that stands straight on top. The peak is called Goddess Peak because the stone pillar looks like a graceful girl. The





peak is higher than other peaks, and it is the first to greet the morning glow and the last to see off the evening glow as the sun sinks into the west everyday. So it is also called the Sun-Glow-Watching Peak. People in ancient China lavished many folk tales on the peak, adding much to its fascinating charm. The Xiangxi Broad Valley that extends 50 kilometers below the eastern exit of Wuxia Gorge features the tomb of Qu Yuan, a patriotic poet during the Warring States Period (475-221 B. C.); Quyantuo with the Temple of Qu Yuan; and the Xiangxi Stream where Wang Zhaojun, a concubine of Emperor Yuandi of the Western Han Dynasty (206 B. C.-A. D 24), once washed clothes.

The 150-kilometer-long Lesser Three Gorges on the Daning River, consist of Longmen, Bawu, and Dicui gorges and are known for the rolling hills, clear and shallow water, rapids, and shoals. Visitors can make a boat tour of the Lesser Three Gorges to enjoy the unsophisticated landscape, ancient coffins placed between cliffs or in caves high up the cliffs, and ruins of ancient plank roads built by chiseling into the rock face as well as monkeys, wild ducks, mandarin ducks, white storks, and other wild animals and birds. The Lesser Three Gorges are known for their lofty hills, beautiful peaks, dangerous shoals, clear water, secluded places, and rapids. "The mountains and waters on the Three Gorges are the finest under heaven, but the landscape

along the Daning River is more beautiful." The Lesser Three Gorges are the best places for people to engage in water drifting.

Xiling Gorge runs 120 kilometers between the estuary of the Xiangxi River in Zigui County in the west and Nanjinguan in Yichang City in the east, including the 31-kilometer-long Miaonan Broad Valley that divides Xilong Gorge into the eastern and western sections. The western section is composed of Bingshubaojian, Niuganmafei, and Kongling gorges from east to west, while the eastern section consists of Dengying and Huangmao gorges. "Shoals are as closely spaced as bamboo joints, and each of the shoals is so dangerous that even the devil frowns." In the past, Xiling Gorge was strewn with perilous rapids and shoals. These dangerous rapids and shoals were cleared when the channel of the Changjiang River was dredged. The world-renowned dam of the Three Gorges Water Conservation Pivotal Project is being constructed on Zhongbao Islet at Sandouping in the Maonan Broad Valley. New landscapes will appear along the Three Gorges on the Changjiang River with the construction of the Three Gorges Water Conservation Pivotal Project.

The project is composed of a concrete gravity dam, a dam toe power station, a permanent ship lock, and a vertical ship lift. The dam will be 2,309 meters long and 185 meters high and will have a normal impounded level of 185 meters at winter, 100 meters higher

than that before the dam is built. When completed, the Three Gorges Reservoir will be 600 kilometers long and 1,000 square kilometers in area, with a water surface as wide as 2,000 meters at the widest point, and have a storage capacity of 39.3 billion cubic meters and an installed electricity-generating capacity of 19.2 million kw. It can generate 84.68 billion kwh yearly. According to schedule, the whole project will be completed in 2009. Before 2003, the majority of the scenic attractions along the Three Gorges will not be affected. After 2003, the government will adopt measures to provide appropriate protection to the scenic spots. Most of them will be moved to a higher location. The landscape along the Three Gorges will virtually remain the same. When the project is completed in 2009, a new scenic resort with a gorge landscape as the main body, mountains and waters as the keynote, and the Ba and Yu cultures as a principal feature will appear. The dam will become the No. 1 dam of water conservation projects in the world and a new hotspot attracting tourists from various parts of the world. The Three Gorges will become a comprehensive tourist resort and a golden tourist route, combining tourism, history exploration, scientific and technological projects, cultural research, and folk customs.

The new Three Gorges on the Changjiang River are unveiling their mysterious appearance.





P9 从8000米高空看长江三峡

P10-11 夔门天下雄

P12-13 巫山县大宁河小三峡

P14-15 西陵灯影峡

P9

The Three Gorges on the Changjiang River seen from 8,000 meters above.

P10-11

The majestic Kuimen under heaven.

P12-13

The Lesser Three Gorges on the Daning River in Wushan County.

P14-15

Dengying Gorge in Xiling Gorge.























