

Late Autumn: The Quiet Season

XINGYI

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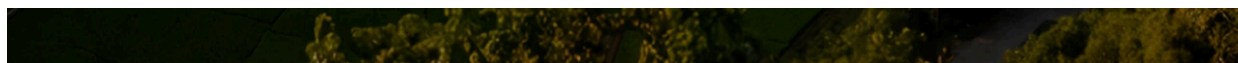
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Late Autumn: The Quiet Season

Wanfenglin Cycling Guide

The World's Highest Bridge Turns One

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The holiday crowds have gone home. The sky is impossibly blue, the temperature sits in the low twenties, and the karst peaks are yours almost alone.

The Month Ahead

Weather: Late autumn is Xingyi's sweet spot. Daytime highs in the low-to-mid 20s°C, cool evenings, clear skies. This stretch — mid-October through late November — is reliably dry and comfortable. No jacket needed during the day, a light layer for evenings.

What's good now:

Wanfenglin cycling — the tail end of the best cycling season. Cooler air, golden light, fewer people on the path. The dedicated cycling route (open 7pm–8am) is at its most pleasant.

Maling River Canyon — waterfalls still full, but the summer crowds are gone. The via ferrata routes are quieter.

Post-holiday prices — hotels drop back to normal rates after the National Day peak. Easier bookings everywhere.

What to skip: Nothing, really. This is one of the two best windows of the year (the other being rapeseed-flower spring).

Feature: Wanfenglin Cycling Guide

Wanfenglin — the Ten Thousand Peaks Forest — is best seen slowly, and a bicycle is the perfect speed. Here's what you need to know:

The route

The official scenic cycling path winds through the karst valley floor, past rice paddies and Buyi villages, with the cone peaks rising on all sides. It's mostly flat — suitable for casual riders.

When to ride

The cycling path is open to the public **7:00pm to 8:00am**. During daytime hours, only the official shuttle buses use the road. For the best experience, go at sunrise — the light on the peaks is extraordinary and you'll have the road nearly to yourself.

Bike hire

Bikes can be arranged locally. Contact us and we'll sort it — we work with local hire shops and can have bikes ready at your hotel.

Full cycling guide: Wanfenglin Cycling

New & Noted

Huajiang Canyon Bridge turns one. The world's highest bridge (625m above water, 1,420m main span) opened September 28, 2025. One year on, it's drawn over 3 million visitors and was named one of TIME's World's 100 Greatest Places 2026. If you haven't stood on it yet, late autumn's clear skies are the time.

New hotels. Several branded mid-range hotels (JI Hotel, Atour) have opened in Xingyi in the last two years — good news for visitors who want familiar standards. Where to stay →

Cliffside coffee. The café atop Yuhuangding (1,634m), overlooking the karst peaks, continues to draw visitors. Go on a weekday morning to avoid the weekend crowd.

From the Ground

Joan's notes from Xingyi





Late Autumn in Xingyi

The Mid-Autumn and National Day holidays are over.

The crowds recede like a tide, and Xingyi exhales. No more traffic jams, no more queues at scenic entrances. Even the busiest walking street has slowed its pace by half a beat.

This is when Xingyi is at its most comfortable.

In late autumn, the average temperature hovers in the low twenties — neither hot nor cold. The sky is impossibly high. Look at this photo: a blue without a single blemish, too lazy even for clouds. The breeze is warm, the air carries the scent of osmanthus, and one deep breath loosens everything in you.

On the Wanfenglin cycling path, the riders have thinned. You can pedal slowly, stop to watch the peaks change color in the sunset, with no one hurrying you along. The water at Maling River Canyon runs just as clear, and the waterfalls sound louder in the quiet. On the benches at Jushan Square, old folks bask in the sun, young people cradle their milk tea. Nothing is in a rush.

Visitors always ask me when the best time to come to Xingyi is. Spring, when the rapeseed flowers bloom, is the postcard season — a golden sea across the hills, perfect for first-timers who want the iconic Xingyi. Late autumn is the quiet season — the crowds gone, ideal for those who want to wander slowly and stay a few good days. Each has its own charm; it depends on which Xingyi you're looking for.

Wind and sun, low twenties, no jacket needed, no umbrella needed. This weather stretches from mid-October all the way to late November — a full month and a half.

If you've been waiting for that "fewer people, better views" moment, it's now.

Plan Your Trip

Thinking of a late-autumn visit? Here's how to make it happen:

Getting here: Full transport guide — high-speed rail from Guiyang (~2h), flights from Zhuhai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Kunming.

Where to stay: Hotel and guesthouse guide

Need a hand on the ground? We're the English-speaking local desk in Xingyi — transfers, bike hire, trip planning. WhatsApp us (<https://wa.me/85254266304>) or see what we can arrange.

Coming in winter? Xingyi stays mild — watch this space for our winter warm-escape guide in the November issue.

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