

# Wuhan

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W U      H A N



Wuhan is a sprawling metropolis in the centre of China. The capital of Hubei province, it is home to 13.7 million people (2022) and lies at the point where the Han River flows into the Yangtze River. Formed by the combining of three ancient cities that expanded alongside each other – Hankou, Wuchang and Hanyang – Wuhan is sometimes referred to as the ‘City of a Hundred Lakes’, hence allowing the city to effortlessly mix the urban with the tranquil.



Source: Envato Elements



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## ¥ THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Wuhan has one of the ten largest economies in China, recording a GDP of CNY ¥1.89 trillion (£203.96 billion) in 2022. Access to the Yangtze River means transportation and trading have long been mainstays of the local economy – a position that was amplified in the last century when the city became one of the country’s main railway hubs as well. In terms of manufacturing, until relatively recently the steel and iron industries formed the core of Wuhan’s output but in the 21<sup>st</sup> century they have been augmented by growth in the automotive, IT, healthcare and intelligent manufacturing sectors.

## LOCAL CULTURE AND ARTS

There are 14 national-level intangible cultural heritage items registered in Wuhan, many of which are forms of opera and other types of music in recognition of Wuhan’s contribution to Chinese performing arts. The city is also known for folk arts such as Han embroidery, wood sculpting and Xiaogan paper cutting, and was named as a Creative City of Design by UNESCO in 2017. In modern times, this passion for art is reflected in the creation of the Wuhan Design Biennale, which started in 2011 to showcase work by prominent designers across traditional and modern forms alike, demonstrating the city’s contemporary strengths in urban planning, the high-tech industries and the creative industries.



Source: Envato Elements



# Wuhan Art Museum

Site 1: 2 Baohua Street, Zhongshan Road, Wuhan (Hankou branch)  
Site 2: 77 Zhiyin Avenue, Hanyang District, Wuhan (Qintai branch)

Wuhan Art Museum is dedicated to the collection, research and display of national art treasures. In addition, the museum takes on a social responsibility for civic education, foreign cultural exchanges and cultivating contemporary art development. Since opening in 2008, Wuhan Art Museum has acted as a platform for artistic and social functions, focusing on the exchange and display of contemporary art and allowing it to grow in strength and importance as a regional arts centre.

In December 2022, Wuhan Art Museum Qintai opened to the public. As a multifunctional contemporary art museum, it is equipped to meet the needs of art exhibitions, work collections, public education and cultural tourism services.

Wuhan Art Museum’s areas of focus are:

- displays
- the promotion of art
- research
- public education
- international exchanges.



YEAR OF OPENING	2008 (Hankou branch) 2022 (Qintai branch)	TICKET PRICE	Free
BUSINESS MODEL	State-owned	LEADERSHIP	Yongjin Chen
EXHIBITION SPACE	Hankou branch: 4,230m² over seven exhibition halls Qintai branch: 10,000m² over five exhibition halls (with a total building area of 43,000m², of which 20,800m² is above ground and 22,000m² underground)		
ACCESSIBILITY	Accessible ramp ✓ Lift and stairs ✓	Wheelchair accessible toilet ✓	

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

*From Monet to Soulages – The Road to Modern Western Painting (1805-1975)*  
29 December 2017 – 29 April 2018

To celebrate the 12<sup>th</sup> Croisements Festival, the Wuhan Art Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Saint-Etienne co-hosted this exhibition of classic Western artworks in which the audience could develop a perception of their own aesthetic existence. The exhibition featured 50 works from the Metropolitan Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art to systematically trace the history of Western painting from the early 19<sup>th</sup> to the late 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, focusing on significant developments and revolutionary events and featuring familiar artists such as Courbet, Monet, Matisse, Picasso, Dubuffet and Soulages.

*Art Space Germany*  
16 June – 14 July 2015

Contrary to German artists flocking to Paris in the 1950s or New York after the 1960s, many non-German artists have consciously chosen Germany as the centre of their life and work, bringing new ideas to visual art in the country. Together with German artists, non-German artists, especially those who immigrated to Germany, have profoundly influenced creative life in Germany: they are active in art academies, contribute to the appeal of the country’s art schools and attract more young domestic and international students.

AVERAGE VISITOR NUMBER PER MONTH	25,350 (Hankou branch) 84,700 (Qintai branch)	WEIBO AND WECHAT FOLLOWERS	1,000,000
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ONLINE ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHT

The exhibition *Gazing of Tranquillity: Italian Contemporary Sculptures* in 2022 showed works from different perspectives to the audience through a live online tour. The first of its kind, it attracted over 100,000 viewers and significant online discussion, at one point ranking sixth in Weibo’s search ranking.