

山城迷幻之旅

Trip

Public transport in Chongqing
is way more than just going
from point A to point B - it's an
adventure in itself

重慶的公共交通體驗，本身已是一段
歷奇旅程，絕非只是起點往終點那樣簡單

BY JAMIE FULLERTON
PHOTOGRAPHY MATJAŽ TANČIČ



journeys

A

metro station that seems to have emerged out of nowhere, a 13-storey-high pedestrian bridge and some of the country's trickiest roads wrapped around pedal-punishing inclines – it's all in a day's commute in the south-west Chinese city of Chongqing.

Located in a highly mountainous region, Chongqing's transport chiefs have had to think outside the box to help its 8.1 million residents navigate the undulating landscape. This has resulted in some intriguing and sometimes head-scratching urban planning decisions.

Unsurprisingly, photos, videos and articles about Chongqing's madcap transport have gone viral online. I braved the city's six-showers-a-day summer swelter to see which were worth visiting.

建於荒野的地鐵站、13層高的行人天橋，以及圍繞陡斜山坡而建且是全中國最難以駕馭的道路——這就是重慶市公共交通的日常景況。

重慶市有山城之稱，其運輸部門必須扭盡六壬，協助市內810萬名居民在崎嶇起伏的地勢上穿梭往來。故此，部分都市規劃成果有趣至極，有些也叫人摸不著頭腦。

毫無意外地，有關重慶市瘋狂交通系統的照片、影片和文章，均在網上廣泛流傳。雖然該市的夏天熱得要命，是每天洗六次澡才能抵消暑氣那種熱，但我仍然奮不顧身，親身探索當地值得一遊的「奇異」景點。

ABOVE: GET READY FOR A RUGGED RIDE ON CHONGQING'S CRT TRAIN

上圖：重慶單軌列車的路程崎嶇起伏



1 GATEWAY TO GHOST TOWN

Caojiawan metro station – an almost deserted sandy scrubland with three foliage-strewn metro exits poking through the ground – would be a great location to film a post-apocalyptic movie.

The station was built in February in anticipation of the forthcoming housing set to be built by Chongqing's Dragon Lake Real Estate company. With so much of central Chongqing packed with high-rise residential buildings, there is much construction going on in places such as Caojiawan to provide more housing options.

But during my hour-long visit, I see no more than five people enter or exit the station's sole functioning entry point. The others are locked shut, seemingly sacrificed to the creeping local greenery before they had the chance to taste a commuter's shoe. Not surprisingly, after photos of it went viral, CNN called it "China's loneliest station".

A domestic worker in the only house visible from the station – a rickety old farmhouse standing on an area set for redevelopment – tells me that she expects the building she works in to be demolished within a year. Better get filming that post-apocalyptic movie fast.

GET THERE Caojiawan station is on Chongqing CRT Line 6, a 50-minute ride north from Xiaoshizi station.

WORTH THE TRIP? Yes – it's an Instagram "like" bomb.

通往鬼城之門

曹家灣地鐵站簡直是末日災難片的完美拍攝場地——在一片近乎荒野的沙地，零零落落長了一些灌叢，三個地鐵站出口破土而出，周圍長滿野草。該站於2月建成，預計連接至龍湖房地產的全新屋苑項目。由於重慶市中心的住宅供應已呈飽和狀態，曹家灣等地區正進行多個建設項目，以滿足該市的房屋需求。然而，在一小時的探索過程中，進出該站的人數只有寥寥五人。這裡只有一個入口可供使用，其餘的都被鎖上，它們似乎在開放使用之前，已被蔓延的野生植物攻陷。地鐵站照片在網上瘋傳後，CNN將之稱為「全中國最孤獨的車站」。半個小時之後，我遇見27歲的地盤經理桂松松（譯音）。他說：「關於這個站，我這次已是第二次接受訪問了。」他又補充，區內正進行大批建築工程，所以地鐵站不會荒廢太久。從車站舉目四望，只看見一座東倒西歪的舊農舍，孤單地立在正待重建的土地上。屋內的工人告訴我，她預期該屋將於一年內拆卸。想要拍攝世界末日電影的朋友，要儘快行動了。

前往方法：曹家灣站屬於重慶軌道交通6號線，從小什字站往北出發，車程約為50分鐘。

值得一遊？值得——在這裡拍下的照片能讓你在Instagram馬上「吸讚」。

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: THE CAOJIAWAN METRO STATION CURRENTLY ONLY HAS ONE ENTRY POINT; A LIFT THAT'S NOT YET IN USE; THE INTERIOR OF CAOJIAWAN METRO STATION; A SOLE COMMUTER MAKING HIS WAY INTO THE STATION

順時針頂圖起：曹家灣地鐵站目前只開放一個出入口，其餘的都被鎖上；一部連接地面和曹家灣地鐵站的升降機還未使用；曹家灣地鐵站內部；曹家灣地鐵站內部；進出該站的乘客寥寥可數



2 BRIDGE ACROSS TOWN

Chongqing is known by many in China as the city of bridges, so it's fitting that the internet went into meltdown over one of its most interesting walkways in 2014. The 13-storey-high pedestrian bridge in Yuzhong district, which connects two high-rise buildings, has some rather stomach-dropping views.

"I'm not afraid of heights. Only tourists get afraid," says Zhang Li, 22, a finance worker who lives in one of the two connected buildings. But despite her confidence, you really wouldn't want to trip over your shoelaces when walking on this one.

The bridge is yet another bizarre but useful transport quirk designed to help cope with Chongqing's dramatically hilly landscape. Taking the elevator to the 13th floor and walking across the bridge gets you to Jiafangbei, Chongqing's city centre area, more quickly than having to climb the incline via the normal roads - it's highly functional, albeit a bit scary.

Standing on the bridge, two tourists from Beijing say they are more captivated than scared, lauding the unique architecture of hilly Chongqing. The building managers, meanwhile, have cottoned on to how convenient the walkway is for accessing Jiafangbei, charging people two yuan each to use it.

GET THERE 13/F Building A, Xinlong Garden, between Xinhua Road and Wuyi Road.

WORTH THE TRIP? Yes - it's the best two yuan you'll spend in Chongqing.

穿越都市的高橋

重慶是中國的天橋之城，無怪乎於2014年的時候，渝中區一道13層樓高、連接兩幢高樓的行人天橋，在網絡上掀起連番談論。從橋上向下望，的確驚心動魄。「我不畏高，只有遊客才感到害怕。」22歲的金融從業員張莉（譯音）居住在其中一幢住宅大廈。縱使她如此從容淡定，但我走在橋上的時候，也不想在上面絆一跤。這是市內另一光怪陸離，但實用性高的交通建設，幫助市民穿越重慶的起伏山勢。你可乘搭升降機到13樓，然後沿著天橋步行至解放碑中央商務區，這樣較攀上普通山路快捷得多。這道天橋非常實用，但也有點叫人卻步。橋上兩名北京遊客說他們不怕高，反而被眼前景象吸引過來，還不斷讚美重慶山城的獨特建築。此外，這兩位大廈管理員也對天橋的便利設計讚不絕口，只需付出兩元人民幣，就可以直接前往解放碑一帶。

前往方法：鑫龍花園A棟13樓，位於新華路和五一路之間。

值得一遊？ 值得——這會是在重慶花得最有價值的兩元人民幣。



3 VANISHING TRAIN

A train passing through the seventh floor of a residential building is certainly not something you see every day.

“Our city is very heavily built upon and that can make finding room for roads and railway lines a real challenge,” transport spokesperson Yuan Cheng said in 2014, in defence of this highly unusual move. “Sometimes there just isn’t room on the ground, so we have to think about going under, over or – in this case – straight through.”

The Liziba station was built in 2002 but it is only recently that train drivers have begun using their horns here, to warn photo-hungry tourists leaning over the railings.

And what do the residents of the building think of all the commotion? Zeng Yongchang, an elderly former police officer who owns an apartment with a rooftop garden that the train runs directly over, says that he doesn’t have problems with his home being a tourist hot spot – except during summer. “During school vacation lots of students come, and the horn is used hundreds of times a day,” he says with a shrug as a train rattles over our heads.

GET THERE Liziba station is on Line 2 of the CRT, located centrally.

WORTH THE TRIP? Absolutely – even if just for the views of the river from the train.

“There just isn’t room on the ground so we have to think about going under, over, or – in this case – straight through”

「地面缺乏空間，故此我們決定讓列車直接穿過建築物」

消失的列車

「中國山城的離奇列車『消失』於住宅大廈內」——這是去年3月份英國《每日電訊報》網站的新聞頭條。文章附帶的影片，顯示一列重慶軌道列車駛進住宅大廈七樓的情形。

「我城建築密集，要尋找空間興建道路和鐵路並非易事。」交通部門發言人元成（譯音）在2014年解釋這個非比尋常的做法。「有時候地面缺乏空間，我們便要想辦法開拓地底或架空道路。對於這宗情況，我們決定讓列車直接穿過建築物。」

當我前往探察時，來自廣西省南寧市的26歲嚮導李典超（譯音）站在李子壩站下面，即網上片段的拍攝地點。他正在舉機攝錄列車穿越高樓的奇景——這點證明了它不單成功攫取外國網民的注視，對於本國人民來說同樣是不可思議。

該站建於2002年，但最近列車司機駛經該站時都要響號，以提醒倚在圍欄拍照的遊客小心列車。

大廈居民又如何看待這股熱潮？退休公安曾永昌（譯音）擁有一個連露台花園的單位，列車經常貼近其家居駛過。

他說這裡變成遊客景點也沒相干，但夏季月份會比較滋擾。「暑假期間，大批學生蜂擁而至，列車響號每天不下數百次！」話剛說完，列車又在我們頭上隆隆駛過，他只好無奈地聳聳肩。

前往方法：李子壩站屬於重慶軌道交通2號線，它位處市中心。

值得一遊？絕對值得——即使只是從列車上欣賞長江景色亦不枉此行。



5 ROOFTOP ROUTE

I meet Ye Jing, a 33-year-old hairdresser, relaxing in the shade on the sixth-floor roof of Ju Feng Jiang Shan Li, a building in Chongqing's Nan'an district that has a tree-lined road on top of it.

Swigging a can of soda next to the road, Ye seems mildly bored by my presence – he has already been interviewed multiple times by journalists visiting the road after photos of it got the internet in a tizzy last June. “I find this road ordinary,” he says, showing me a video on his smartphone of him being interviewed for Chinese TV.

The rooftop road was built to allow residents to access the winding streets that curl around the back of the building, but netizens have speculated about the potential dangers of a road being next to a six-storey drop. This element of danger adds some buzz to seeing it for real, though there are no smartphone-wielding tourists here.

GET THERE Ju Feng Jiang Shan Li is found at 1 Hai Tang Xi Xin Jie.

WORTH THE TRIP? Check out the photos that got everyone worked up online, but perhaps give visiting it a miss.

屋頂馬路

我遇上33歲髮型師葉京（譯音），他正在重慶南岸區聚豐江山里的六樓屋頂平台上乘涼，而平台上建有一條馬路。

他在路旁喝著汽水，對我的出現不以為意——自去年6月開始，這裡的照片在網上引起一陣騷動，其後他已被多位記者採訪過了。「我覺得這條路平平無奇。」他一邊說，一邊向我展示手機上他被中國電視台採訪的片段。

這條屋頂馬路，其實只是方便居民前往大廈後方的蜿蜒道路，但網上有人認為，馬路旁就是六層高的懸空，有可能構成危險。雖然那裡沒有拿著智能電話拍照的遊客，但能夠親眼目睹這條「險要」道路，還是頗刺激的。

前往方法：聚豐江山里位於海棠溪新街1號。
值得一遊？有關照片引起網民熱話，但略過此行程也未嘗不可。

4 OVERPASS OF NO RETURN

After its completion last May, the Huangjuewan overpass network, located around 20km north-east of Chongqing city centre, quickly earned the title of “the craziest interchange in the world” in the BBC.

The 20-ramp, five-layer system intimidates the best of motorists. “Who says that this saves time?” wrote one netizen. “If you take the wrong ramp you’ll be taking a day-long vacation.” In its defence, Liu Bangjun, designer of the system, says it had to be that complicated because it connects three different highways all going in different directions.

It looks like a spectacular spaghetti mess from above, but when approaching it in a taxi it doesn’t look quite as madcap. “Even if you go the wrong way, you only have to go around one kilometre or even just 500 or 600 metres before there is an option to correct the wrong turn,” a Chongqing transport official told Chinese state media.

Still, as we approach the centre of the sprawl, we remember the aerial images, lose our nerve and head back to the city.

GET THERE Ask a cabbie to take you to Huangjuewan Li Jiao Qiao in Nan’an District – and wait for the justified look of bemusement.

WORTH THE TRIP? Not if you ever want to get home.

立交橋一日遊

黃桷灣立交橋網絡，位於重慶市東北面大約20公里處，在去年5月落成後，旋即被英國傳媒冠上「全球最瘋狂立交橋」的稱號。該橋道系統共設20條匝道，擁有五層結構，就連技術最高超的駕駛者，也難免心驚膽顫。

「誰說它節省時間？」一位網民這樣寫道。「如果你走錯一條匝道，就會變成立交橋一日遊。」

設計負責人劉幫俊為此辯護，解釋由於立交橋連接三條不同方向的高速公路，故此設計必然會錯綜複雜。

從鳥瞰角度觀看，立交橋系統恍如一團意大利麵，但如果乘坐的士在上面馳騁，其建築結構就清晰得多。

「就算你走錯路，只需前行一公里，甚至是500米至600米，就可以重上正確匝道。」一位重慶市交通運輸部官員如此告訴中國官方媒體。

然而，當我們駛近立交橋網絡的中央，便立即想起了那幅鳥瞰圖，連忙打退堂鼓返回市中心。

前往方法：要求的士司機把你載到南岸區的黃桷灣立交橋——然後等待司機浮現一臉困惑的樣子。

值得一遊？不值得，若然你還想回家的話。



6 SLIDE TO THE SHOPS

This is a bumpy ride, but infinitely more fun than the prospect of getting lost in a massive five-layer overpass network for a day.

While the curly slide in Chongqing's Bailian Shanghai Mall was seemingly made purely as a fun ride rather than to help solve the city's transportation problems, it has received more attention than all of the other locations in this feature – a video of someone plummeting down it has garnered over 900,000 views.

The four-storey slide, which takes around 12 seconds to zip down, costs 30 yuan per ride and you're not allowed to carry bags while using it, which could be an issue if you're doing any shopping in the shopping mall. Staff will look after your belongings, but you'll have to go back up four floors in order to retrieve them.

The ride is fast and spine-knobblingly bumpy – and way more thrilling than standing on an escalator.

GET THERE Bailian Shanghai Mall is at 32 Nanping Xi Road. Head to the fourth floor.

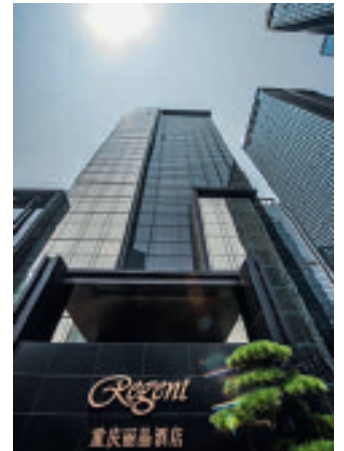
WORTH THE TRIP? Yes, if you're in the area, although many other Chongqing thrills last longer than 12 seconds.

商場過山車式螺旋滑梯

超級滑梯雖然顛簸不平，但總比在五層結構的立交橋上迷路一整天來得好玩。重慶百聯南岸上海城購物中心的高空螺旋滑梯，看似是趣味設施多於解決交通問題，但它卻成功攫取極高注意率——一段遊人玩滑梯的網上短片，已累積超過90萬觀看次數。滑梯樓高四層，滑下所需時間大概為12秒，每次收費30元人民幣。由於滑行時不准攜帶購物袋等物品，故此正在商場內購物的人士或會稍感不便。員工會替你看守物件，但完成遊戲後，你要重新上到四樓才可取回。整個過程極快且非常顛簸，但怎也比站在扶手電梯上上落落新奇刺激得多。

前往方法：百聯南岸上海城購物中心的地址為南坪西路32號。滑梯位於商場四樓。

值得一遊？值得，假如你剛好身處該區，雖然重慶還有許多刺激活動均為時超過12秒。



WHERE TO STAY 住宿好選擇

Chongqing has a huge amount of overnight stay options, ranging right through from extremely cheap hostels to high-end luxury international brand hotels, plus Airbnb options.

The *Aspire* team stayed as guests of the Regent Chongqing, a recently opened luxury hotel in the city's Jiangbeizui business district. The hotel is a 30- to 40-minute drive from Chongqing Jiangbei International Airport and a 10-minute walk from the Grand Theatre metro station on Line 6. Among other facilities, it has a gym, spa, a swimming pool, high-end restaurants and a popular terrace bar overlooking the Yangtze River.

重慶備有大量住宿選擇，從極其便宜的青年旅舍到高級奢華國際品牌酒店，以至Airbnb民宿等，各適其適。《*Aspire*優遊》採訪團隊以住客身分下榻於重慶麗晶酒店。這家近日開業的豪華酒店位於江北嘴中央商務區，距離重慶江北國際機場約30至40分鐘車程，步行至軌道交通6號線的大劇院站只需10分鐘。酒店設施包括健身室、水療中心、游泳池、高級食府，以及深受歡迎且坐擁長江景致的室外露天酒吧。

regenthotels.com/regent-chongqing; +86 023 8908 8888

Hong Kong Airlines flies to Chongqing daily. For more information, visit hongkongairlines.com

香港航空每日均設有航班來回香港與重慶。查閱更多訊息，請瀏覽 hongkongairlines.com