



# China's Pace-setting City - Qingyuan - Gets First 5-Star Hotel

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*Sofitel Riverside Qingyuan to cater for rapidly growing business, leisure & conference markets.*

PR9.NET October 30, 2007 - Qingyuan, China - One of China's most dynamic cities - Qingyuan - has its first internationally-branded 5-star hotel following the opening of the Sofitel Riverside Qingyuan.

Qingyuan's location in the Pearl River Delta makes the city a strategic gateway between the river delta, the scenic mountain areas in northern Guangdong Province and China's inland regions.

A mere hour's drive north of Guangzhou, Qingyuan is the fastest-growing city in Guangdong Province, breaking records for GDP growth (up 23.3% in 2006), foreign trade, foreign investment, fixed-asset investment, and productivity growth. By the end of 2006, 221 projects with a total investment of 50 billion RMB were underway in Qingyuan and there are more than 1,000 foreign enterprises, processing and assembling enterprises operating within the urban district.

The region is also a popular tourist area, with many attractions including white water rafting, hot springs, mountain trekking, caves, temples, and local villages. Qingyuan is an ideal base for viewing attractions such as Feixia Scenic Spots, Baojing Palace of Yingde, Taihe Ancient Cave of Qingxin, Sankeng Hot Spring, Huanghua Lake of Fogang, Little Beijiang of Lianyang, Underground River of Lianzhou, Three Gorges of Huangchuan and Yinzhan Hot Spring Holiday Area.

The Sofitel Riverside Qingyuan is the first international luxury hotel to open in Qingyuan, designed specifically to cater to the rapid increase in business travelers as well as being a major new weekend retreat and conference / incentive centre for southern China.

The contemporary-styled Sofitel offers 368 guest rooms and suites, with half overlooking the Beijiang River. Club Sofitel rooms and a Club Sofitel lounge are also available. All rooms feature Sofitel's signature MyBed, the most comfortable hotel bed in China.

Dining options include a variety of cuisine styles:

- \* Oui coffee shop specialising in buffets
- \* Le Chinois Cantonese restaurant, with 32 private rooms
- \* e6 fine-dining restaurant (opening later)
- \* Japanese restaurant
- \* Lobby Lounge, with wide terrace open out onto the Beijiang

A KTV lounge with 72 private rooms, show hall and nightclub adjoins the Sofitel via a direct access.

The hotel has extensive meeting facilities with over 1800 sq meters of function space, including a Grand Ballroom and three smaller meeting rooms. The Sofitel is an ideal venue for conferences, exhibitions and banquets.

Leisure facilities include a large indoor (25x12 meters) swimming pool and an outdoor swimming pool (to be completed later this year), fully equipped gymnasium, steam room, sauna and jacuzzi. A rooftop tennis court provides a great venue to combine sport with attractive city view.

Rates start from RMB605++ per night and are available via [http://www.accorhotels-asia.com/6325/detail/default.aspx?utm\\_medium=Press-Release](http://www.accorhotels-asia.com/6325/detail/default.aspx?utm_medium=Press-Release)

Sofitel Riverside Qingyuan joins an extensive network of Sofitel hotels and resorts in China. Sofitel is located throughout the country, including Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Xian, Dongguan, Hainan Island and Hefei. There are currently 20 Sofitel hotels operating in China, with a further eight Sofitels - including Guangzhou and Macau - scheduled to open in the next two years. Accor operates over 50 hotels and resorts in China, with a particularly strong presence in the Pearl River Delta.

Sofitel: premium hotels around the world

Because no one country or city is the same, Sofitel has made each of its hotels around the world a truly unique establishment. Combining the spirit of each place with the values of modernity, refinement and absolute comfort, they are all imbued in their inimitable way with the French "art de vivre".

Whether their setting is a great business metropolis like Paris, New York or Bangkok, or nestling in the landscape in Indonesia, Polynesia or Brazil, each Sofitel hotel offers travelers a genuine haven of peace. So that each guest, for an overnight stay or longer, during a business trip or for a holiday, can enjoy the rich variety of these unique places in comfort and tranquility.

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