

FSF Cymru Fan Embassy China Cup preparation and Information Guide

南宁 Nánning

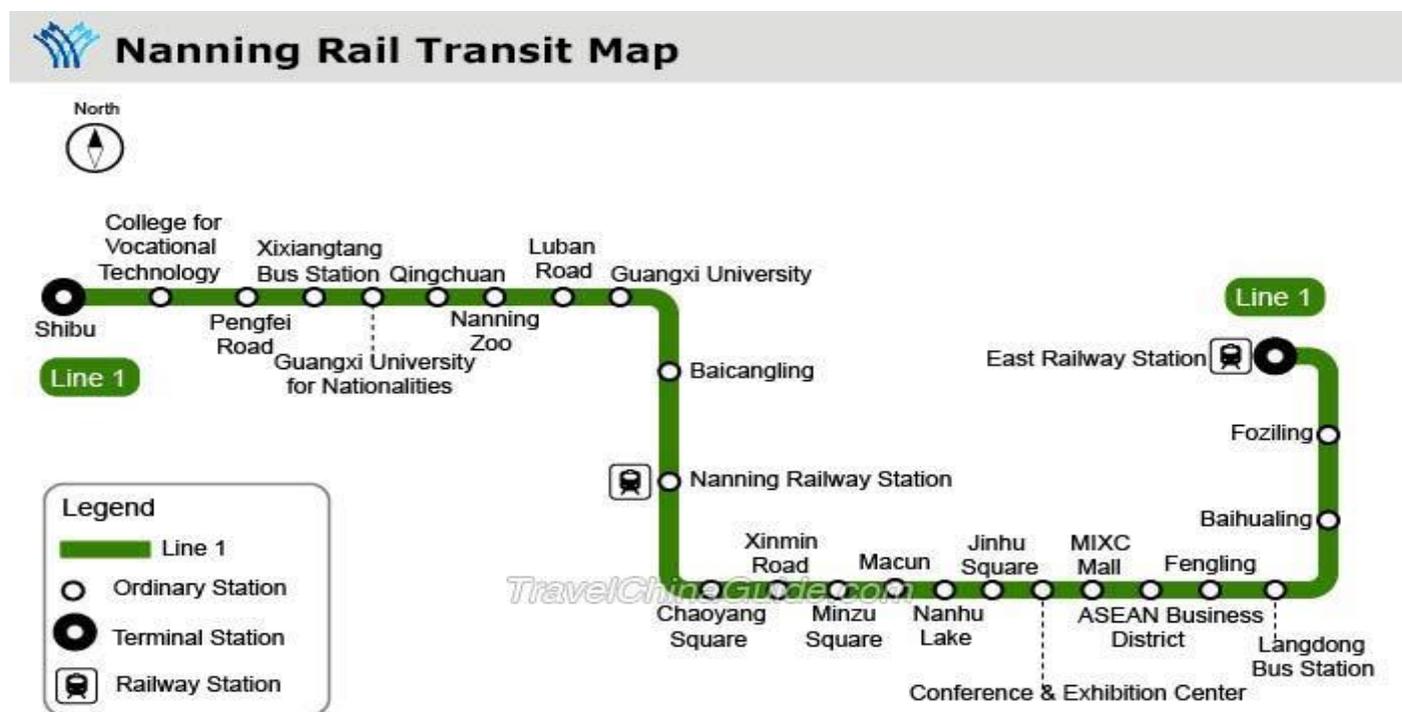
The four-team tournament is taking place in Nanning China between 22nd-26th March. Wales will play hosts China in their opening 2018 China Cup game on 22nd March in Nanning. The final or Third place play off game will take place four days later on the 26th March, all games will be played at the Guangxi Sports centre.

Wales will then face either Uruguay or the Czech Republic, depending on results.

Wales are guaranteed two matches - a semi-final, plus the final or third-place play-off.

Below, with the help of Welsh fan and regular visitor to China, Philip Marshall we will strive to provide as much information as possible to assist Welsh fans planning to make this epic trip.

We have emailed the FAW to see if there is anyway they can talk to the Chinese in relation to Visas for the Welsh fans wishing to travel, we do know that the cheapest possible Visas will cost £151 if you travel to Manchester or London in person and join the queues and the cheapest postal option is £181. We will give more details about Visa applications and what is required once we have heard back from the FAW, we are doubtful that there will be a reduction in Visa costs but at least we will have asked the question.



The current currency exchange rate (December 2017) is £1 = 9 Yen

Philip recommends booking accommodation along Metro Line One, in and around Chaoyang square, this Metro line was opened in December 2016 and by the time we arrive in Nanning another new line should be open, line two is expected to be completed in December 2017. Metro trips are very cheap, and range between 2-4 Yen. Regular local bus fares are just one Yen per trip.

Unfortunately, the Metro has not reached anywhere near the stadium yet, this can be found about 15 km away from the City centre or approximately 50 minutes, it is possible that the FAW will try to arrange coach travel from Chaoyang Square to the stadium, but not certain yet, alternatively red cabs will take you there for approximately Y40-Y50 about £5-£6.

The games will be played at the impressive Guangxi Sports centre which has a capacity of 60,000 and was opened in 2010, in the first tournament held in 2017 the attendances averaged around 25,000. There are two other Sports centres in the North and in the centre of town but the one we need is on the outskirts of the City

Line one of the Metro links Nanning train station and Nanning East Station where you can get high speed trains which take under 4 hours to Guangzhou and Shenzhen traveling in well maintained and very fast modern trains. Guangzhou is a sprawling port city northwest of Hong Kong whilst Shenzhen, in South eastern China, is a modern city that links Hong Kong to China's mainland. It's known for its shopping destinations, including Luohu Commercial City, a massive mall with a vast array of wares, from tailors' custom clothing to faux designer bags. The city also features contemporary buildings, such as the 600m-tall skyscraper Ping An International Finance Centre, and several amusement parks Both these large cities are well worth a visit.

The four hour BULLET TRAIN (up to 350km/h) from Shenzhen (on the Hong Kong border) to Nanning costs Y245 (£25) - there are four departures a day. Shenzhen to Guangzhou (Canton) takes under an hour and costs Y80 (£9) with departures every 15 minutes. If you want to go directly from downtown Hong Kong to Guangzhou there are 12 trains a day, taking 2 hours (will change in late 2018 to 45 minutes!) and costs HK\$210 (£19). There are over fifty (50) bullet trains per day from Canton to Nanning about 3 hours 30 mins - costing Y170.

TRAINS TO GUILIN / YANGSHOU

There are around 50 train departures a day to Guilin [Nanning to Guilin trains](#) (南宁 - 桂林) An expensive tourist-trap taking a little over two hours for Y110. Still, it is easier to take the train there and then the local bus on to **Yangzhou** (45 minutes / Y12) than to use the Yangzhou train station (2 departures a day), which is actually 40 minutes out of town! There are around 6 bus departures a day directly to downtown Yangzhou, taking about 4 hours costing Y100.

USEFUL WEBSITES

First, a tip. Many airline websites and hotel booking ones use special cookies to record your IP address. Even if you delete cookies every visit, they will still associate your IP address to a specific query and steadily increase the prices specifically for you after 2 or 3 visits... Use a free VPN ip disguise if you are just window shopping! Its definitely worth having a VPN app on your phone as well inside China!

CTRIP has bought Sky scanner and is huge. Use them for information, but be aware that booking hotels/trains incurs a 3% non-Chinese credit card fee. Train bookings also incur a Y45 service charge! <https://english.ctrip.com/trains/>

See also - <https://www.seat61.com/China.htm>

AGODA – is the Chinese owner of Booking.com – Its Hong Kong based, and their customer service is fantastic – there are local phone numbers to call, as well as a free 0800 UK number.
<https://www.agoda.com/city/nanning-cn.html?cid=-217>

The area around Chaoyang square in Nanning has lots of restaurant options, tea and coffee houses and the main shopping area. When you arrive at Metro stop Langdong bus station where you can get buses to the amazing South China city of Guilin known for its dramatic landscape of limestone karst hills and across the border into the capital city of Vietnam Hanoi

Expect to pay about Y25 (£3) for most taxi rides in town.

About Y20 for a simple 3-course meal in restaurant or Y50 for extravagant splash out meal.

The local beer is gorgeous and its Y3 to Y5 depending on the restaurant for 680ml bottles (1.2 pints).

Important addresses in Nanning if you don't fancy the local cuisine

KFC

No. 49, Min Zu Da Dao (Minzu Avenue)

McDonald's

No. 2-1, Gu Cheng Lu

We will up date this on a regular basis and include information on Beijing, Hong Kong and Hanoi in case you decide to visit these cities during your trip.