

Google Maps Alternative for China

How to use Maps.me offline maps in Guilin and Yangshuo

Why Google Maps is unreliable in China

- Google services are blocked without a VPN.
- Even with a VPN, real-time traffic and transit are often inaccurate.
- Local drivers use Baidu Maps or Amap (Gaode).

Why Maps.me is a great backup

- Fully offline once you download the region.
- Works without a Chinese phone number or payment app.
- Shows hiking trails, rural roads, and points of interest.
- Free and available on iOS and Android.

Step-by-step: download Guilin offline maps

- 1. Install Maps.me from the App Store or Google Play.
- 2. Open the app and allow location access.
- 3. Tap the menu → 'Download maps'.
- 4. Search for 'Guilin, China' and tap Download.
- 5. Also download 'Yangshuo' and 'Longsheng' if visiting Longji.
- 6. Wait for the download to finish before you travel.

Tips for using Maps.me on the road

- Download maps over Wi-Fi; offline map files can be 50–150 MB.
- Use Maps.me for orientation and backup navigation, not real-time driving directions.
- Pair it with Baidu Maps or Amap for live traffic when you have data.
- Save your hotel and key attractions as bookmarks before you leave.