

URBAN INDEX OF SHENZHEN

UIS ASIA-PACIFIC PILOT CITIES OBSERVATION REPORT 2026

Research Center of Territorial Spatial Planning, Ministry of Natural Resources
Shenzhen Urban Planning and Land Development Research Center

ASIA-PACIFIC PILOT CITIES OBSERVATION REPORT 2026

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PREFACE

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the CPC Central Committee has strategically advanced the major reform of integrating multiple spatial plans into one unified framework. By fully integrating various types of spatial planning, including planning for functional zones, land-use planning, and urban and rural planning, China has established a unified, authoritative, and efficient territorial spatial planning system. As traditional urban planning has been deeply integrated and iteratively upgraded together with planning for functional zones and land-use planning, urban planning in the new era has become an integral part of territorial spatial planning. Guided by the broader vision of Chinese modernization, territorial spatial planning is shaping the future development of cities.

Over the past eight years of reform implementation, Shenzhen has followed the guidance of its territorial spatial master plan, upheld the bottom line of safety and security, and continuously promoted high-quality urban development while responding to the people's aspirations for a better life. Building on this practice, Shenzhen has developed the Urban Index of Shenzhen (UIS), structured around six dimensions — Innovation, Livability, Aesthetics, Resilience, Humanism and Intelligence. Through the "6+20+50+X" indicator framework, UIS connects urban evaluation, knowledge transformation and international exchange, creating an open platform for global cities to learn from each other and collaborate on future urban development.

Developed under the continuous guidance of the Territorial Spatial Planning Bureau of the Ministry of Natural Resources, UIS is an international public good jointly created by the Research Center of Territorial Spatial Planning, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Shenzhen Urban Planning & Land Development Research Center. The initiative has received support from UN-Habitat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This report represents the Asia-Pacific thematic outcome of UIS's global pilot city observation program. Aligned with the 2026 APEC theme of "Building an Asia-Pacific Community to Promote Common Prosperity," the report focuses on 13 representative cities across the Asia-Pacific region, presenting urban profiles and key observations through the UIS framework. Every city demonstrates unique strengths and valuable experiences in urban development. UIS does not seek to rank cities against one another; instead, it aims to make diverse urban practices visible, shareable and transferable, enabling knowledge and experience to flow across cities.

CHAPTER 1

UIS ASIA-PACIFIC PILOT CITIES OBSERVATION REPORT 2026

CHAPTER 1
UIS AT A GLANCE

1.1 Positioning: International Public Goods for Urban Governance

1.2 Philosophy: In Harmony with Nature, People-Centered

1.3 Products: Eight Product Systems, Building an Integrated Global Service Brand

1.4 Indicator Framework: 1+6+20+50+X — Continuously Expanding and Evolving

1.1 Positioning: International Public Goods for Urban Governance



The Urban Index of Shenzhen (UIS) represents an international public good provided by Shenzhen to the world under the framework of global governance initiatives:

Enriching the "urban chapter" of global governance through China's practices of urban modernization.

Providing reference cases for cities around the world, especially those in the Global South, and contributing to narrowing development gaps.

Serving as a platform and tool for Shenzhen and other Chinese cities to engage more deeply in global urban governance.

1.2 Philosophy: In Harmony with Nature, People-Centered

Rooted in Eastern wisdom, UIS advocates an urban development philosophy of living in harmony with nature and putting people at the center. It transforms Shenzhen's practices and experiences into a broader theoretical framework and knowledge system for urban modernization, contributing to and shaping global discourse on urban governance. UIS aims to enrich the new possibilities of human urban civilization.



1.3 Products: Eight Product Systems, Building an Integrated Global Service Brand

UIS Report	Provides global city assessments, rankings and thematic reports, delivering quantitative analysis, methodological insights and future development perspectives.
UIS Toolkit	Combines AI-powered self-diagnosis with customized consulting services to identify urban challenges and provide practical, systematic improvement solutions.
UIS Monthly	UIS Monthly Delivers in-depth insights through monthly thematic publications, consolidating knowledge outputs and establishing a long-term platform for professional communication.
UIS Academy	Integrates academic resources with Shenzhen's local practices to provide training programs, study visits and learning opportunities for international participants.
UIS Forum	Creates a multi-level platform including summits, seminars and international side events, bringing together global knowledge and exploring frontier topics in urban governance.
UIS Awards	Establishes a series of recognition programs, including global city awards, outstanding practice awards and benchmark project certifications, highlighting cities and projects with outstanding performance, innovative approaches and exemplary practices.
UIS Lab	A physical technology showcase platform centered on AI-generated planning and immersive interactive experiences, combining open innovation with international collaboration potential.
UIS Library	Integrates the official website and data platform, bringing together research outputs, data resources and service access points to create a bilingual, one-stop global platform for open exchange and knowledge sharing.

1.4 Indicator Framework: 1+6+20+50+X — Continuously Expanding and Evolving

(1) Structured Assessment Across Six

The UIS assessment model first standardizes raw indicator data across the six dimensions.

Step1: Normalize raw indicators to ensure comparability.

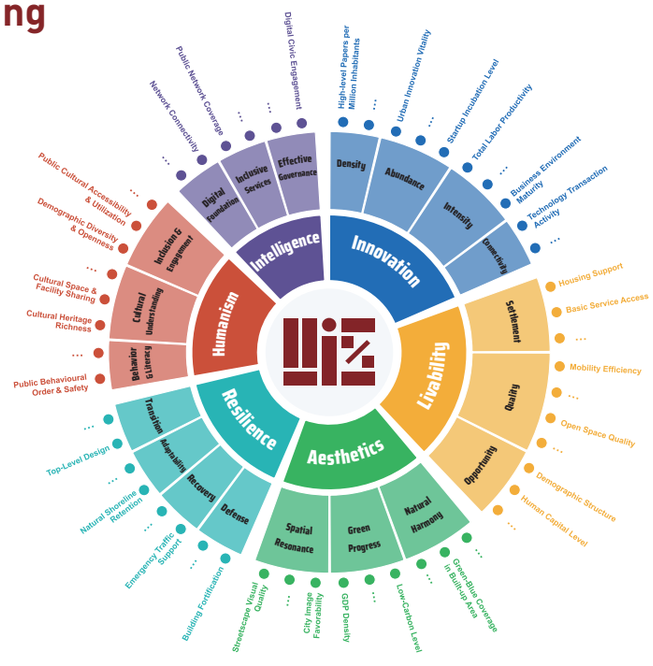
Step2: Convert normalized values into a unified 60–100 score range.

(2) UIS Six-Dimensional Synergy Analysis

By classifying cities and analyzing relationships among dimensions, the UIS model identifies development patterns and structural characteristics.

Step 1: Cluster sample cities based on their six-dimensional scores.

Step 2: Analyze six-dimensional synergy relationships across sample cities.



CHAPTER 2

CHAPTER 2
UIS SIX-DIMENSIONAL OBSERVATION

2.1 Observation Sample

2.2 Beijing

2.3 Shanghai

2.4 Guangzhou

2.5 Shenzhen

2.6 Hong Kong

2.7 Jakarta

2.8 Tokyo

2.9 Mexico City

2.10 Lima

2.11 Manila

2.12 Singapore

2.13 Bangkok

2.14 New York

2.1 Observation Sample: 13 Asia-Pacific Cities

The 13 sample cities span East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Americas, covering major economic belts around the Pacific Rim. Representing mature global cities, regional hubs, and rapidly growing cities at different stages of development, the sample ensures both regional representativeness and diversity in urban development types. The observations therefore offer comparative value and practical relevance.

No.	Asia-Pacific Pilot Cities	Country
1	Beijing	China
2	Shanghai	China
3	Guangzhou	China
4	Shenzhen	China
5	Hong Kong	China
6	Jakarta	Indonesia
7	Tokyo	Japan
8	Mexico City	Mexico
9	Lima	Peru
10	Manila	Philippines
11	Singapore	Singapore
12	Bangkok	Thailand
13	New York	United States



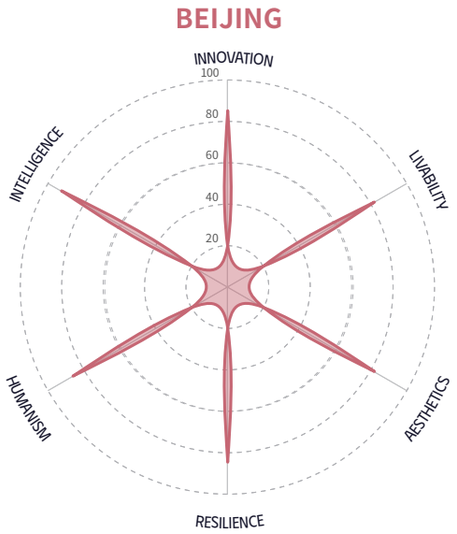
BEIJING



UIS ASIA-PACIFIC PILOT CITIES OBSERVATION REPORT 2026

2.2 Beijing: A Multifunctional Capital City Shaped by National Functions

UIS six-dimensional observation highlights Beijing's distinctive strengths as a city supported by diverse resources and functions. Its innovation capacity is built on a strong foundation of universities, research institutions, innovation platforms and talent resources, generating sustained momentum for knowledge creation and development. Its cultural identity and spatial character are closely associated with the Central Axis, historic urban fabric, cultural heritage and public cultural resources. Meanwhile, Beijing's livability needs to be understood within the context of a megacity with complex functions and intensive urban activities. Commuting efficiency, living costs, equitable access to services and urban regeneration remain important factors shaping everyday experiences. UIS portrays Beijing as a mature megacity with rich resources and highly integrated functions, continuously balancing historical continuity, innovation-driven development and quality of life.







Key Data

Population
21.8 million

Administrative Area
16,410 km²

Population Density
1,330 people/km²

GDP per Capita
USD **33,000**

Urban Character

· Concentration of national functions and cultural resources
· Strong clusters of universities, research institutions, innovation platforms and modern services

UIS Perspective: Knowledge Resources and Cultural Heritage as Core Urban Strengths

From UIS six-dimensional indicators, Beijing's strengths are not confined to a single dimension. They are jointly supported by research investment and knowledge output, public cultural provision and civic participation, as well as intelligent governance and inclusive services. The interaction between innovation capacity and cultural heritage forms two of the city's most stable and distinctive characteristics. Notably, these two strengths are not independent from each other, but have reinforced one another through long-term development. Beijing's profound historical and cultural foundations provide a humanistic context for technological innovation, while its dynamic innovation ecosystem gives new expression to the city's cultural identity.



Beijing: UIS Six-Dimensional Evaluation

Highlight 1 Knowledge Resources as a Foundation for Innovatio

Beijing's innovation is deeply rooted in knowledge. Long-term accumulation of educational, research and talent resources continues to flow into the city's spatial development, industrial ecosystem and innovation landscape, creating a continuous pathway from basic research to applied innovation, and from talent cultivation to industrial growth. Knowledge is generated, transformed and amplified through diverse urban platforms and spatial carriers, forming a fundamental foundation for Beijing's innovation-driven development.

This characteristic is clearly reflected in Beijing's urban spatial structure. Universities and research institutions such as Tsinghua University, Peking University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences are concentrated along the northwestern part of the city, forming a stable source of talent and knowledge generation. Building upon this foundation, Zhongguancun Science City extends this innovation ecosystem by bringing together research outcomes, entrepreneurial ventures and industrial applications within the same spatial setting, facilitating the transition from knowledge creation to practical application. Further toward the city's outskirts, Huairou Science City focuses on major scientific facilities and interdisciplinary research platforms, advancing fundamental research and frontier exploration.

The three spatial nodes correspond to different levels of Beijing's knowledge ecosystem: knowledge creation, innovation translation and deep research exploration. Together, they form an integrated spatial division of functions across the city. Beijing's innovation momentum continues to grow through this distributed spatial structure, where different areas contribute to different stages of the innovation process.

Zhongguancun Science City: Connecting Academic Research with Industrial Transformation

Leveraging the concentration of universities, research institutions, technology companies and innovation service providers, Zhongguancun Science City facilitates the translation of research outcomes, entrepreneurial ventures and industrial applications within a core urban innovation ecosystem.



Huairou Science City: Advancing Fundamental Research and Frontier Exploration

Centered on major scientific facilities and interdisciplinary research platforms, Huairou Science City supports the development of fundamental research, frontier science and original innovation capabilities.





University and Research Network: Providing Talent and Knowledge Foundations

Universities, research institutions and scientific organizations such as Tsinghua University, Peking University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences continue to provide talent, knowledge and technological resources, forming a key source of innovation capacity within Beijing's innovation ecosystem.





Highlight 2 Historic Spaces Shaping Urban Identity

Beijing's humanistic character is deeply reflected in the way its historic spaces continue to evolve. The Central Axis, traditional hutongs and industrial heritage sites form some of the city's most distinctive spatial memories. What defines Beijing is the continued integration of these historic places into contemporary urban life, where they accommodate public activities and everyday uses across different scales.

The Central Axis provides a framework for understanding Beijing's urban order. Stretching from the Bell and Drum Towers to the Yongding Gate, the continuous sequence of buildings, plazas and public spaces forms the city's most representative spatial backbone. It allows Beijing's historical identity to be experienced through a clear urban structure, while enabling cultural activities and public life to continue along the axis.

At a finer scale, hutong renewal continues to preserve Beijing's historic urban fabric. Through street improvements, courtyard restoration and the introduction of mixed uses, traditional neighborhoods have been reintegrated into contemporary urban life, accommodating residential functions, retail, exhibitions and community activities while allowing historic character and modern uses to coexist within the same spaces.

Shougang Park represents another pathway for urban transformation. By preserving blast furnaces and industrial structures while introducing exhibitions, sports events and public activities, the former industrial site has been reimagined as a new urban cultural destination. Together, these three types of historic spaces demonstrate different approaches to preserving and revitalizing urban heritage, collectively shaping Beijing's expression in the Humanism and Aesthetics dimensions.

Beijing Central Axis: Preserving Urban Order Through a Historic Spatial Framewor

Through the continuous organization of imperial sites, temples, plazas, streets and historic buildings, the Central Axis preserves Beijing's most representative spatial structure and cultural order. It strengthens the city's overall character and enables its historical identity to be experienced through an integrated urban landscape.



Hutong Renewal: Sustaining Everyday Life Through Historic Urban Fabric

Through courtyard restoration, street improvement, public space enhancement and the introduction of community services, hutong renewal preserves the historic fabric of the old city while improving residents' daily living environment and revitalizing neighborhood public life.



Shougang Park: Expanding Cultural Spaces Through Industrial Heritage Renewal

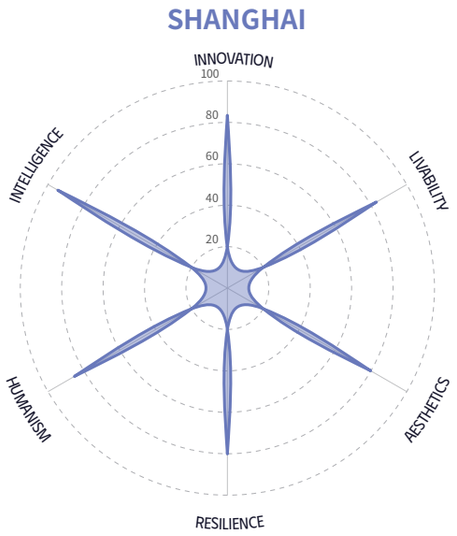
By preserving industrial structures and introducing exhibitions, sports and public activities, Shougang Park transforms former industrial sites into contemporary cultural spaces, integrating industrial memory with urban life.





2.3 Shanghai: An Open Gateway Striving for the Excellent Global City

UIS six-dimensional observation highlights Shanghai's distinctive strengths in Innovation, Livability and Humanism. In the Innovation dimension, innovation clusters such as Zhangjiang, Caohejing and Lingang, together with the Wujiaochang innovation ecosystem around Fudan and Tongji universities, have formed a complete pathway from research and development to industrial application. The Livability dimension reflects the city's inclusiveness and attractiveness to diverse groups, with public spaces and everyday services supporting a high quality of urban life within a megacity context. The Humanism dimension is rooted in the long-standing heritage of Shanghai culture, where Shikumen neighborhoods, the Bund and the public waterfront along the Huangpu River create a distinctive cultural depth for an international metropolis. UIS observes Shanghai as a modern city that continues to grow through openness while maintaining a dynamic balance between global connections and everyday urban life.







Key Data

Population

24.8 million

Administrative Area

6,340.5 km²

Population Density

3,912 people/km²

GDP per Capita

USD **31,700**

Urban Character

· Strong concentration of global financial, trade and shipping functions

· A distinctive blend of Shanghai culture and international urban character

UIS Perspective: Openness and Livability Shaping Urban Competitiveness

From UIS six-dimensional indicators, Shanghai's strengths are reflected in two key areas. In the Innovation dimension, technology exchange, innovation platforms and a supportive business environment create an open and connected innovation ecosystem, where university incubators and innovation clusters jointly support knowledge transfer and industrial transformation. In the Livability dimension, the development of 15-minute community life circles and the practice of building a "People's City" bring public services and spatial quality closer to residents' everyday lives.



Shanghai: UIS Six-Dimensional Evaluation

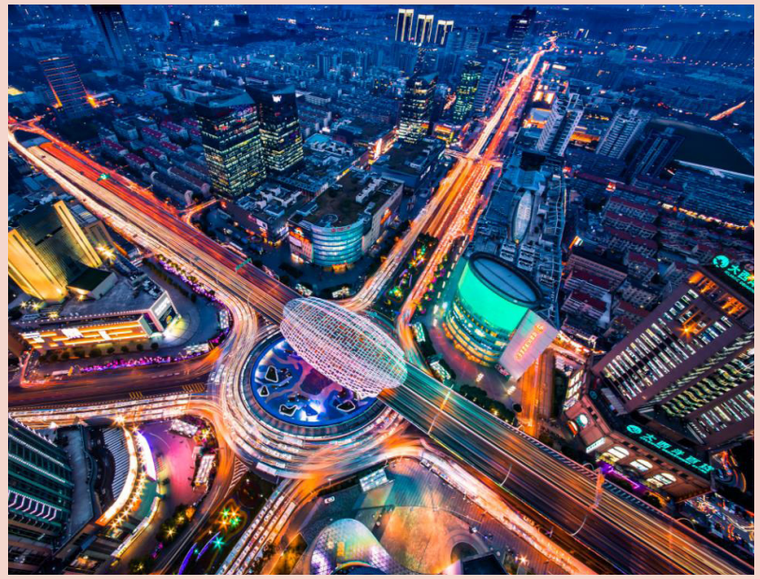
Highlight 1 Diverse Innovation Spaces Supporting Urban Growth

As one of China's most internationally connected cities, Shanghai has long attracted multinational R&D centers, global venture capital and entrepreneurial talent, forming an innovation ecosystem characterized by openness, mobility and diversity. People, capital and technologies from different backgrounds converge, interact and generate new forms of urban innovation. This international character is embedded not only in policies and institutions, but also in everyday urban life: entrepreneurs in cafés, global teams in co-working spaces and technology showcases in exhibition venues together form the connective tissue of Shanghai's innovation ecosystem.

This characteristic is clearly reflected in Shanghai's spatial structure. The Wujiaochang area around Fudan and Tongji universities integrates academic resources and incubation platforms, closely linking knowledge creation with early-stage entrepreneurship. Mature innovation clusters such as Caohejing and Zhangjiang provide industrial ecosystems and international innovation communities, supporting the transition from laboratory research to market applications. Lingang New Area further extends Shanghai's innovation ecosystem through institutional innovation, attracting global capital and international innovation resources. Across different spatial scales, university-driven innovation, cluster-based transformation and institutional openness collectively shape Shanghai's distinctive innovation foundation.

Wujiaochang: University-Based Innovation Ecosystem

Supported by Fudan and Tongji universities, the area brings together universities, incubators and startup communities within a walkable innovation district, becoming one of Shanghai's most active areas for knowledge creation and early-stage entrepreneurship.



Zhangjiang Science City: A Core Platform for Research and Innovation Transfer





Integrating research, pilot testing and industrialization functions, Zhangjiang leverages major scientific facilities and international innovation communities to support advanced technology development and commercialization.

Lingang New Area: A New Model of Industry–City Integration

Centered around Dishui Lake, the area integrates advanced manufacturing industries such as intelligent manufacturing and integrated circuits with residential and public service spaces, creating a new model of integrated urban development.





Highlight 2 Advancing the "People's City" Through Public Space Transformation

Shanghai's livability is strongly reflected in the way public spaces connect with everyday life. The development of 15-minute community life circles and the transformation of waterfront areas represent some of the city's most distinctive spatial practices. These initiatives go beyond physical improvement, translating the concept of building a "People's City" into concrete spatial design and daily experiences.

Shanghai's livability is strongly reflected in the way public spaces connect with everyday life. The development of 15-minute community life circles and the transformation of waterfront areas represent some of the city's most distinctive spatial practices. These initiatives go beyond physical improvement, translating the concept of building a "People's City" into concrete spatial design and daily experiences.

The 15-minute community life circle responds to livability needs at a more everyday scale. By providing education, healthcare, cultural and commercial services within walking distance, Shanghai brings accessibility from the citywide level into neighborhood life, enabling residents to enjoy quality daily services within their own communities.

These two approaches represent different pathways of urban improvement: drawing spatial value from history and enhancing quality through everyday life. Together, they support Shanghai's expression of livability observed by UIS.

Caoyang New Village: Renewing Community Life Through the 15-Minute Neighborhood

By integrating education, healthcare, cultural and commercial services within walking distance, the project brings public service accessibility from the city scale into everyday community life.



Yangpu Riverfront: Transforming an Industrial "Rust Belt" into a Living Waterfront

Through preserving industrial buildings and docks while introducing public paths and activity spaces, the former industrial waterfront has been reopened to residents, allowing historic character and contemporary urban life to coexist.



Expo Park–Qiantan Park: Transforming Expo Heritage into an Urban Public Living Room

Building on the Expo site, the project transforms a large-scale riverside area into a public space combining culture, ecology and recreation, extending Shanghai's waterfront public-space strategy and serving the southern part of the city.

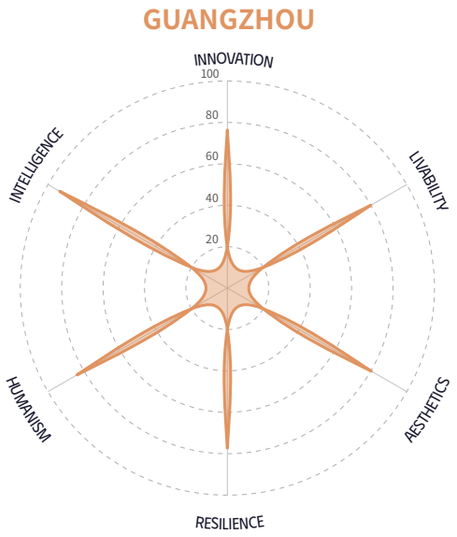


GUANG ZHOU

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2.4 Guangzhou: A Multifunctional City Shaped by Millennia of Commerce and Lingnan Heritage

UIS six-dimensional observation highlights Guangzhou's distinctive urban characteristics shaped by commercial services, gateway functions, Lingnan cultural heritage and its river-based urban landscape. As one of the core cities of the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area, Guangzhou has long served as a regional center for commerce, transportation, public services, cultural exchange and advanced manufacturing, demonstrating strong foundations in the Humanism, Livability and Intelligence dimensions. As a megacity, Guangzhou continues to address challenges related to mobility organization, historic urban renewal, equitable access to public services, ecological resilience and industrial transformation. UIS portrays Guangzhou as a mature urban center that sustains vitality through its commercial and gateway functions, while maintaining its distinct identity through Lingnan culture and the spatial character of the Pearl River.







Key Data

Population

18.98 million

Administrative Area

7,434.4 km²

Population Density

2,553 people/km²

GDP per Capita

USD **23,600**

Urban Character

· Strong commercial services, transportation hub functions and advanced manufacturing capabilities

· Distinctive Lingnan culture, Pearl River landscape and old-city living traditions

UIS Perspective: Urban Quality Shaped by Commercial Heritage and Lingnan Culture

From UIS six-dimensional indicators, Guangzhou's urban characteristics are shaped by the combined influence of commercial services, Lingnan cultural heritage, waterfront spaces and comprehensive urban functions. Trade and exhibition activities, modern services, specialized markets, transportation networks and manufacturing foundations continue to support urban vitality. Meanwhile, Lingnan culture, historic neighborhoods, traditional commerce and public cultural activities strengthen the city's identity in the Humanism dimension. The Pearl River system, waterfront spaces, green areas and historic district renewal further shape Guangzhou's performance in Aesthetics, Livability and Resilience. UIS observes Guangzhou as a mature urban center that continues to enhance its overall quality through the interplay of commercial heritage, everyday life and waterfront landscapes.



Guangzhou: UIS Six-Dimensional Evaluation

Highlight 1 Commercial Services and Gateway Functions Sustaining Urban Vitality

Guangzhou's urban vitality is rooted in its long-standing commercial tradition and gateway functions. As a major commercial center and integrated transportation hub in China, Guangzhou connects domestic and global markets, the Pearl River Delta industrial hinterland, and regional service networks. These foundations are supported by trade and exhibitions, specialized markets, aviation and port infrastructure, as well as modern services. For Guangzhou, "commerce" represents more than an economic sector; it reflects a long-established capacity for connecting resources, people and opportunities across the city.

This gateway vitality is clearly reflected in Guangzhou's urban spaces. The Canton Fair and Pazhou area represent Guangzhou's platform for international trade exchange and modern exhibition economy, bringing together exhibitions, conferences, business offices, digital industries and urban services. Baiyun International Airport and Guangzhou Port jointly support the city's aviation, shipping and logistics networks, providing a foundation for Guangzhou's connection to global markets and regional industrial chains. The Tianhe–Zhujiang New Town area concentrates financial services, headquarters, commercial activities and public cultural facilities, forming one of the city's most important cores for modern service functions.

These spaces together demonstrate that Guangzhou's development momentum is driven by the continuous integration of commercial heritage, gateway functions and modern service capabilities. The Livability and Intelligence dimensions observed by UIS are reflected in this high level of connectivity and the city's capacity to provide comprehensive services.

Canton Fair–Pazhou Area: Sustaining Trade Exhibition and Digital Service Functions

Centered on the Canton Fair Complex, exhibition services, digital economy and urban amenities, the area serves as a key platform for Guangzhou's international exchange and modern commercial services.



Baiyun International Airport–Guangzhou Port: Strengthening Aviation and Maritime Connectivity



Through aviation hubs, port logistics and integrated transportation networks, the area supports Guangzhou's connections with global markets, regional industrial chains and the Greater Bay Area urban cluster.

Zhujiang New Town: Concentrating Modern Services and Urban Functions

Centered on headquarters offices, financial services, commercial activities, cultural facilities and rail transit, the area has become a key hub for Guangzhou's modern service industries and urban public life.



Highlight 2 Lingnan Heritage and Waterfront Spaces Shaping Urban Character

Guangzhou's urban character is deeply rooted in the long-term interplay of Lingnan culture, historic neighborhoods and the Pearl River landscape. Arcade streets, traditional commerce, Cantonese opera, tea culture, flower markets, ancestral halls and waterfront life together shape the city's distinctive everyday identity compared with other megacities. Rather than remaining as isolated heritage assets, these cultural elements continue to be integrated into streets, markets, communities and public spaces, becoming an active part of residents' daily lives.

Historic district renewal provides an important lens for understanding Guangzhou's Humanism dimension. Historic areas such as Yongqing Fang, Enning Road, Shamian Island and Beijing Road have revitalized traditional neighborhoods through street improvements, building restoration, adaptive reuse and public space enhancement. While preserving historic urban fabric, these areas have integrated cultural exhibitions, community services, dining, retail and public activities, reconnecting historic neighborhoods with contemporary urban life. Through these everyday and accessible spaces, Lingnan culture continues to be experienced and carried forward.

The Pearl River waterfront spaces demonstrate Guangzhou's continued improvement in Aesthetics and Livability. From Zhujiang New Town and Ersha Island to historic riverside neighborhoods, these waterfront areas connect the city skyline, cultural facilities, pedestrian activities and nighttime landscapes, forming one of Guangzhou's most distinctive public interfaces. The Pearl River serves not only as a landscape axis, but also as a space supporting urban ventilation, recreation, leisure and public activities.

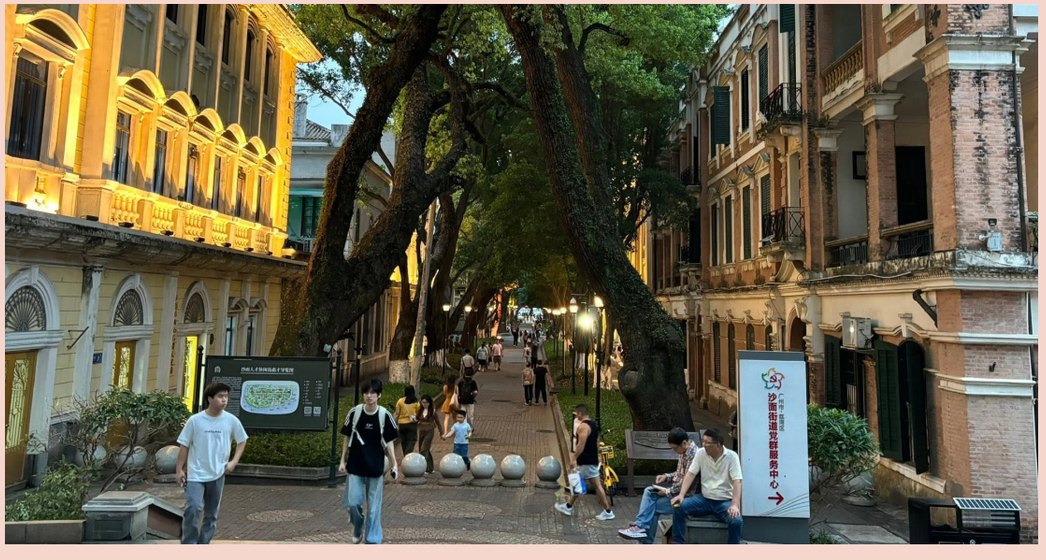
Yongqing Fang–Enning Road: Preserving Lingnan Lifestyle Through Historic Urban Renewal

Through the restoration of historic buildings, improvement of street spaces and introduction of mixed-use functions, the area preserves Xiguan character, arcade streets and community life, creating a historic urban setting that is accessible, engaging and rich in cultural experience.



Shamian–Beijing Road: Preserving Urban Memory Through Historic Districts

Through historic buildings, traditional commerce, pedestrian spaces and public activities, the area preserves Guangzhou's urban memory of openness, commercial prosperity and everyday old-city life.



Pearl River Waterfront Spaces: Shaping Public Life Through Urban Waterfronts

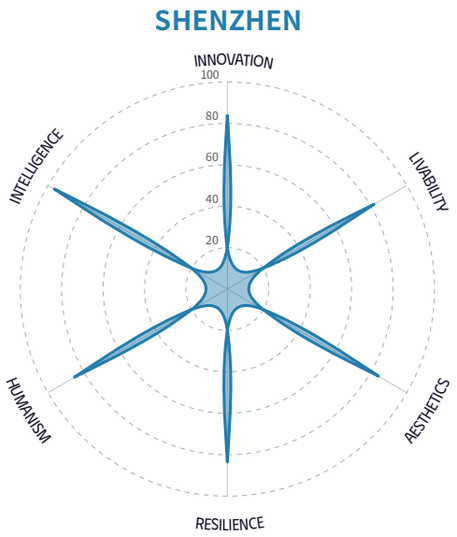
Through waterfront walking networks, cultural facilities, nighttime landscapes and open space design, the Pearl River strengthens its role as Guangzhou's landscape axis, living axis and public activity corridor.





2.5 Shenzhen: An Innovation-Driven City Continuously Transforming Through Rapid Growth

UIS six-dimensional observation highlights Shenzhen's distinctive characteristics shaped by innovation ecosystems, industrial collaboration, high-density urban development and continuous improvement of urban quality. Since the beginning of reform and opening up, Shenzhen has grown rapidly by leveraging a market-oriented environment, enterprise-driven innovation, integrated industrial chains and diverse application scenarios, forming an innovation system that connects technological research, manufacturing and market applications. Across the Innovation, Livability and Intelligence dimensions, Shenzhen demonstrates strong development vitality and spatial adaptability. At the same time, rapid population growth and intensive urban activities have driven continued exploration in land use, public services, mobility, urban renewal and ecological integration. UIS portrays Shenzhen as a growth-oriented city that advances through innovation ecosystems while continuously refining spatial organization and living environments in a high-density urban context.







Key Data

Population

18.14 million

Administrative Area

1,997 km²

Population Density

9,083 people/km²

GDP per Capita

USD **29,800**

Urban Character

· High economic output and intensive urban functions within a limited spatial footprint
· Strong connections among enterprises, industrial chains and application scenarios, enabling rapid technology translation

UIS Perspective: Innovation-Led Integrated Urban Capabilities

From UIS six-dimensional indicators, Shenzhen's strengths are reflected in the combined support of innovation ecosystems, industrial transformation, high-density urban capacity, efficient urban operations and spatial quality. The close connection between technological innovation and urban applications, together with the coordination between intensive growth and refined governance, forms the city's most distinctive development characteristics.



Shenzhen: UIS Six-Dimensional Evaluation

Highlight 1 Scenario-Based Innovation Driving Urban Development

Shenzhen's innovation vitality is driven by the close interaction among enterprises, industrial chains, talent and application scenarios. Its well-developed electronics supply chains, responsive manufacturing system and market-oriented technology companies shorten the pathway from research and prototyping to commercialization and large-scale application, allowing innovations to quickly enter industries and everyday life.

DJI represents how Shenzhen's innovation ecosystem nurtures globally competitive technology companies. Supported by manufacturing capabilities, market feedback and diverse application needs, drone technologies have evolved from consumer products into solutions for surveying, inspection, emergency response and agriculture, demonstrating Shenzhen's ability to connect research, manufacturing and real-world applications.

This innovation capacity is further supported by a continuous influx of talent. Through talent attraction, employment services and support for young professionals, Shenzhen strengthens the connections among people, jobs, industries and urban services, sustaining its innovation ecosystem.

Liuxiandong Headquarters Area represents a distinctive form of Shenzhen's innovation spaces. Its "innovation rainforest" ecosystem integrates leading companies, emerging enterprises, innovation services, public spaces and supporting facilities, enabling continuous interaction among research, industrial collaboration, talent exchange and market applications.

Meanwhile, digital infrastructure, smart government services, smart mobility, urban management and the low-altitude economy provide real-world environments for emerging technologies to be applied and scaled. The innovation advantages identified by UIS reflect Shenzhen's continuous transformation capacity across the "enterprise–industrial chain–application scenarios–urban governance" ecosystem.

DJI: Growing Global Innovation from Urban Ecosystems

Shenzhen's urban environment enables innovation to emerge from everyday spaces and develop into globally influential technology enterprises through industrial networks and market connections.



Million Talents Initiative: Attracting Young Talent Through Employment Opportunities

In Shenzhen, industrial opportunities and employment services jointly attract young talent. Through job matching, campus recruitment and talent support programs, the initiative continuously injects new vitality into the city's innovation ecosystem.



Digital Infrastructure and Smart Governance: Expanding Urban Innovation Scenarios

Digital infrastructure, smart government services and applications such as "Shen Xiao i" embed technology into urban operations, public services and daily life, extending innovation from industrial applications to governance scenarios.



Highlight 2 Strong Capacity to Support High-Density Urban Development

Supporting intensive populations, industries, and urban functions within limited land resources is essential to understanding Shenzhen's performance in livability and resilience. The high concentration of employment, housing, commuting, and public service demands requires the city to continuously improve housing provision, transportation organization, and service accessibility while maintaining urban efficiency. Shenzhen's experience shows that high density does not necessarily lead to congestion or disorder; the key lies in whether a city has sustained capacity for spatial organization and governance.

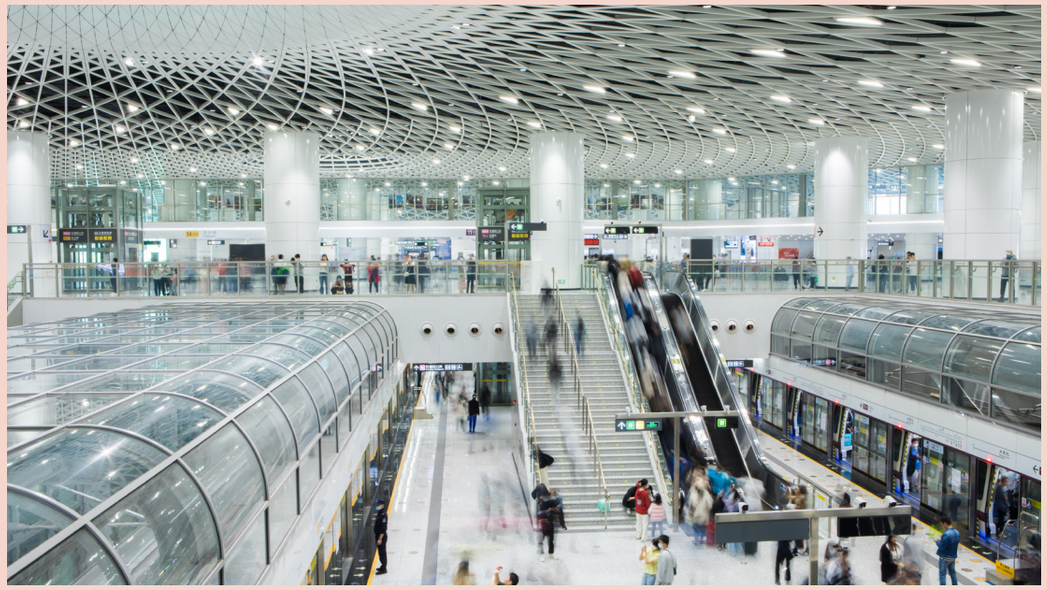
A polycentric urban structure and an extensive rail transit network provide the foundation for Shenzhen's high-density development. Rather than expanding through a traditional single-center model, Shenzhen has gradually developed a network of interconnected functional nodes through rapid urbanization, industrial transformation, and major development platforms. Districts such as Futian, Nanshan, Qianhai, Longhua, and Longgang each perform distinct industrial and service functions, helping to distribute the pressure of urban operations. The expanding rail network further strengthens connections among industrial areas, residential communities, and public service nodes, improving commuting efficiency and land-use intensity. TOD development along rail corridors has also created mixed-use urban units with a relatively balanced distribution of jobs and housing, providing important support for livability under high-density conditions.

Urban villages and talent housing demonstrate another dimension of Shenzhen's capacity to accommodate growth. Urban villages have long met the housing needs of young workers, new residents, and emerging employment groups through low-threshold and highly accessible housing options, filling gaps in the formal housing market and supporting Shenzhen's inclusive character. Projects such as Shuiwei Ningmeng Talent Apartment represent Shenzhen's active exploration of using existing urban spaces to respond to the housing needs of young talent. While preserving the existing urban fabric, such renewal efforts improve residential quality and community vitality, achieving both regeneration and housing support.

From rail transit construction and urban village governance to TOD development and talent housing provision, Shenzhen's high-density capacity does not come from a single policy or engineering solution. It is rooted in the city's organic organization of spatial functions and everyday urban life, supported by long-term institutional accumulation, spatial investment, and a governance system capable of responding flexibly to diverse needs.

Efficient Commuting: Enhancing Everyday Efficiency in a High-Density City

Through rail transit, polycentric development, 15-minute living circles and public space networks, Shenzhen reduces the daily operating costs of a high-density city while improving accessibility to jobs, services and leisure activities.



Shuiwei Ningmeng Talent Apartment: Supporting Urban Integration

Through affordable housing, community services and neighborhood governance, the project provides stronger foundations for young professionals, new residents and diverse employment groups to establish stable lives in Shenzhen.



Highlight 3 Continuous Improvement in Urban Character and Civic Identity

As Shenzhen continues to grow rapidly, it not only sustains high levels of industrial and urban efficiency, but also strengthens its mountain–sea landscape, public spaces, historical memory, and civic participation, making urban quality increasingly tangible in everyday life.

The Mountain-Sea Vistas Plan provides an important lens for understanding Shenzhen's ecological character. Drawing on the city's distinctive natural setting, where mountains, coastline, rivers, and built-up areas are closely interwoven, Shenzhen has advanced a spatial structure of "one ridge, one belt, and twenty corridors." By removing ecological barriers and connecting hills, bays, rivers, communities, and public spaces through hiking trails, greenways, blueways, waterfront corridors, and urban parks, the city has transformed mountain and sea spaces from visual background into accessible, usable, and experienceable everyday places. Families hiking on weekends, young people cycling along blueways, and elderly residents walking in the evening all establish concrete connections with nature in these spaces. Harmony between people and nature has therefore become a visible and lived urban experience.

Nantou Ancient City offers a representative example of historical space regeneration. As one of Shenzhen's best-preserved historic districts, Nantou has undergone gradual, micro-scale renewal that preserves its street fabric, heritage buildings, and community memory, while introducing cultural exhibitions, art and design, public events, and community services. This approach allows the ancient city to retain its original warmth while gaining new vitality, enabling architectural styles from different periods to coexist and form layered historical narratives. In a young migrant city like Shenzhen, Nantou is more than a site of heritage conservation; it provides a shared public place where people from different backgrounds can encounter history and build a sense of urban identity.

A culture of public participation also strengthens Shenzhen's civic identity. Behind Shenzhen's reputation as a "City of Volunteers" is the sustained contribution of millions of volunteers to community services, public welfare activities, and urban governance. The city's open and inclusive atmosphere enables people from different backgrounds to gradually build emotional connections with Shenzhen through participation. Shenzhen's urban identity is not based on common birthplace or inherited tradition, but grows through shared living, participation, and co-creation. Together, ecological spaces, historical memory, and civic engagement form an important foundation for the urban character observed by UIS.

Mountain-Sea City and the City of Parks: A City of Harmony Between People and Nature

Supported by the Mountain-Sea City initiative, greenways and waterfront spaces, Shenzhen transforms ecological resources into public spaces that connect people with nature in a high-density city.



Nantou Ancient City: Integrating Urban Memory into Everyday Life

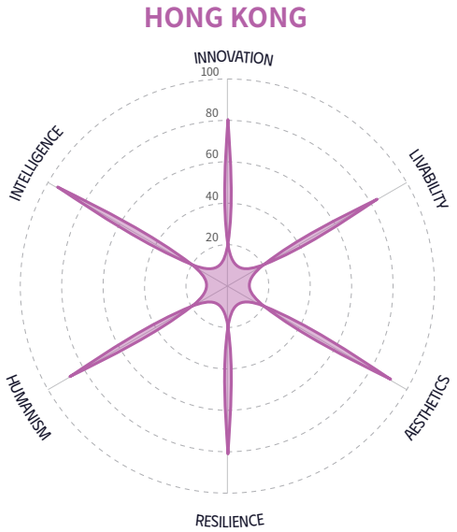
Through historic district revitalization and the introduction of public cultural programs, Nantou Ancient City transforms urban memory into everyday spaces that can be lived in, experienced and shared.





2.6 Hong Kong: An International Financial Hub Shaped by Global Connectivity and Urban Density

UIS six-dimensional observation highlights Hong Kong's distinctive strengths in Innovation and Humanism. In the Innovation dimension, Hong Kong Science Park and Cyberport serve as key platforms connecting university research, technology development and startup incubation, while its proximity to Shenzhen enables deeper integration into the Greater Bay Area innovation ecosystem. The Humanism dimension is rooted in the long-term interaction between Eastern and Western cultures. Historic districts in Central, the Victoria Harbour waterfront and the everyday coexistence of diverse communities together create a distinctive cultural character that can be experienced throughout the city. UIS observes Hong Kong as a vertically integrated international hub that sustains global connections through financial openness, maintains operational efficiency through spatial concentration, and continues to generate urban vitality through cultural diversity.







Key Data

Population

7.53 million

Administrative Area

1,115 km²

Population Density

6,754 people/km²

GDP per Capita

USD **57,000**

Urban Character

· One of the world's most densely developed cities, with its harbor shaping a distinctive urban form

· A unique blend of Eastern and Western cultures, where historic districts coexist with a modern global city

UIS Perspective: A Vertical City Model Driven by Innovation and Cultural Diversity

From UIS six-dimensional indicators, Hong Kong's strengths are concentrated in two key areas: Innovation and Humanism. A mature business environment, cross-border capital flows and professional service networks support its financial innovation and global connectivity. Meanwhile, historic districts, local neighborhoods and diverse cultural activities sustain public cultural vitality within a highly intensive urban environment. The combination of global resources and cultural density within vertical urban space forms Hong Kong's most distinctive competitive advantage.



Hongkong: UIS Six-Dimensional Evaluation

Highlight 1 An Innovation Ecosystem Shaped by Financial Openness and Spatial Concentration

Hong Kong's innovation capacity is closely connected with its financial openness and high-density urban structure. Capital, professional services, international legal systems, cross-border transaction networks and entrepreneurial resources are highly concentrated, allowing innovation activities to connect, exchange and transform within limited time and space.

This characteristic is clearly reflected in Hong Kong's urban spaces. The Central–Admiralty area vertically integrates international financial institutions, stock exchange functions, law firms, accounting firms and startup incubation spaces within an extremely limited land area. Ground-level streets, underground shopping networks and elevated walkways form a three-dimensional circulation system, compressing knowledge exchange and capital connections that would normally require city-scale movement into a walkable urban environment.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong Science Park and Cyberport represent another dimension of Hong Kong's innovation ecosystem. Hong Kong Science Park connects university research resources with technology enterprises, facilitating daily collaboration between academia and industry. Cyberport combines technology offices, startup incubation and waterfront environments, creating an attractive setting for innovation communities. The capital density of Central, the research-to-market pathway of Science Park and the technology community of Cyberport together form Hong Kong's innovation ecosystem shaped by financial openness and spatial concentration.

Central CBD: A Vertically Integrated Financial Cluster

Within Central's limited land area, international banks, securities institutions, law firms and startup spaces are vertically integrated within high-rise buildings. Ground streets, underground shopping networks and elevated walkways form a three-dimensional urban circulation system, enabling knowledge exchange and capital connections within a highly compact area.



Hong Kong Science Park: An Integrated Platform for Industry–Academia Collaboration



Located near Tolo Harbour, the Science Park brings together research resources connected with The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and The Chinese University of Hong Kong, alongside enterprises in biotechnology, artificial intelligence and fintech, creating a walkable innovation environment that facilitates collaboration between research and industry.

Cyberport: Integrating Innovation Communities with Waterfront Space

Located at Telegraph Bay, Cyberport combines technology enterprises, startup incubation and waterfront environments, using high-quality spaces to attract innovation talent and support technology communities.



Highlight 2 Historic District Revitalization Supporting Diverse Cultural Life

Hong Kong's Humanism dimension is strongly reflected in the coexistence of historic neighborhoods and modern urban development. High-rise financial towers, dense residential areas, traditional markets, temples, arcade streets and creative industries are closely interwoven within compact urban spaces, creating a highly layered cultural landscape.

This cultural vitality is sustained not only through heritage preservation, but also through continuous everyday use of urban spaces. Areas such as Wan Chai, Sheung Wan and Yau Ma Tei retain distinctive street life and community interactions despite intensive urban development. Markets, cha chaan tengs, temples, neon signs, historic buildings and creative spaces coexist, allowing Hong Kong's urban culture to continue evolving through streets, slopes and urban corners.

Wan Chai, Temple Street and the Central–Sheung Wan historic corridor represent different pathways of cultural continuity. Together, they demonstrate Hong Kong's unique ability to maintain cultural density within a highly compact urban environment.

Wan Chai Historic District: Preserving Local Culture in a Dense Urban Environment

Arcade buildings, markets and temples coexist with modern office towers, creating a representative example of accessible multicultural urban life in Hong Kong.



Temple Street, Yau Ma Tei: A Street-Based Platform for Traditional Public Life

Within the dense urban fabric of Kowloon, the area supports vibrant cultural activities and community interactions through a highly compact street environment.



Central–Sheung Wan Historic Corridor: Connecting Old and New Cultural Spaces

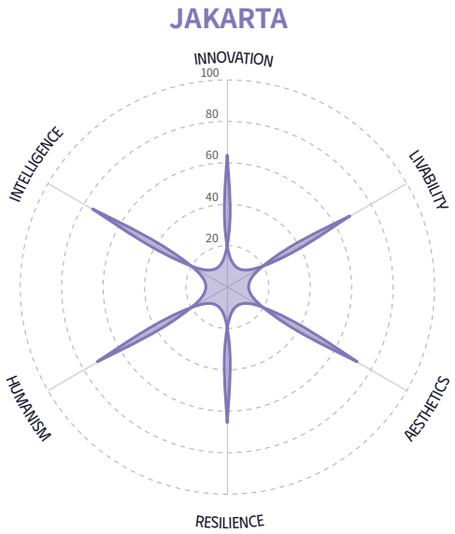
From PMQ to Hollywood Road, the corridor links historic buildings, local creative industries and contemporary art spaces, forming a continuous cultural landscape that bridges heritage and urban innovation.



JAKARTA

2.7 Jakarta: A comprehensive city embraces high-density growth

UIS six-dimensional observation highlights Jakarta's distinctive characteristics shaped by concentrated functions, urban vitality and growing capacity pressures. As Indonesia's national gateway and metropolitan core, Jakarta concentrates population, employment, commerce, public administration, transportation and logistics functions, supporting its vitality in Livability and Intelligence dimensions. At the same time, high-density development brings continued challenges related to mobility, basic services, water management and climate adaptation. UIS observes Jakarta as a growth-oriented metropolis that continuously strengthens its urban capacity while addressing the operational challenges of a rapidly expanding megacity through mobility and environmental governance.







Key Data

Population
10.72 million

Administrative Area
2,404 km²

Population Density
4,461 people/km²

GDP per Capita
USD **22,300**

Urban Character

· Concentration of gateway functions and economic activities
· Strong urban vitality driven by high-density development

UIS Perspective: Functional Concentration and Urban Capacity Shaping Jakarta's Development Path

From UIS six-dimensional indicators, Jakarta's urban characteristics are shaped by the interaction between functional concentration, growth momentum and capacity pressures. Financial services, public administration, commercial activities, port logistics and transportation networks are highly concentrated, supporting the continuous aggregation of population, employment and urban services. Meanwhile, mobility efficiency, infrastructure provision, water management and climate adaptation remain important factors influencing the city's Livability and Resilience performance. The interaction between growth opportunities and urban pressures forms one of Jakarta's most distinctive development characteristics.



Jakarta: UIS Six-Dimensional Evaluation

Highlight 1 Multi-Functional Concentration Supporting Metropolitan Operations

Jakarta's urban vitality is first reflected in the intensive concentration of diverse functions. As Indonesia's economic and administrative center, Jakarta brings together financial services, government functions, commercial activities, logistics and transportation networks. These functions are closely interconnected within limited urban space, organizing population movement, employment, goods circulation and service consumption, and supporting the daily operation of the wider metropolitan area.

This functional concentration is clearly reflected in Jakarta's urban spaces. Central business districts accommodate headquarters, financial services and modern commercial activities, forming the city's most intensive economic corridors. Port and logistics systems connect domestic and international markets, providing essential support for trade and industrial activities. Large-scale commercial and consumption spaces serve as important nodes for daily services, public activities and urban vitality.

From the UIS perspective, Jakarta's Livability performance is closely connected with this multi-functional concentration. Urban growth is driven by the accumulation of functions, while related pressures emerge from the same process. Enhancing mobility, public services and spatial quality within this concentrated urban system is a key pathway for Jakarta's future development.

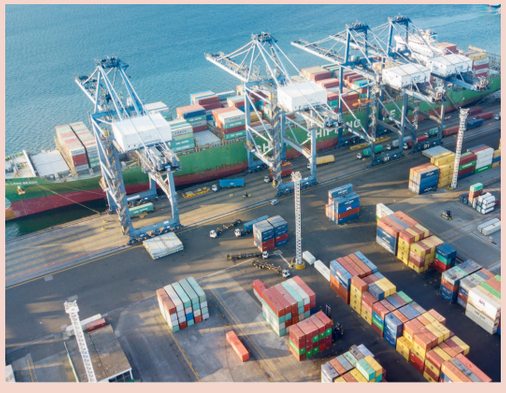
Sudirman–Thamrin Business Corridor: Concentrating Financial and Headquarters Functions

Supported by office buildings, financial institutions, hotels, commercial facilities and public transport nodes, the corridor forms one of Jakarta's most representative economic activity areas.



Tanjung Priok Port: Supporting Logistics and Global Connections

As one of Indonesia's major ports, it supports goods circulation, regional trade and industrial services, serving as an important gateway connecting Jakarta with domestic and international markets.



Central Commercial Areas: Supporting High-Frequency Urban Activities

Large shopping centers, commercial districts and public activity spaces support consumption, tourism and everyday urban services.



Highlight 2 Mobility and Water Management Addressing Urban Capacity Pressures

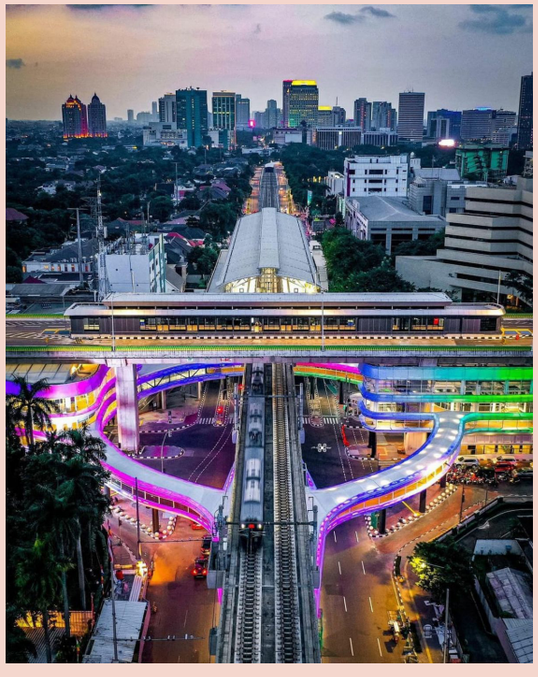
Jakarta's high-density growth has made mobility and water management among the city's most critical urban challenges. Large-scale population and employment movements across the metropolitan area have long relied heavily on road transportation, creating pressures on commuting efficiency and traffic congestion. Meanwhile, flooding, land subsidence, coastal protection and river management continue to influence urban safety and resilience.

In recent years, Jakarta has responded to mobility pressures through the development of public transportation systems. The expansion of MRT Jakarta, TransJakarta Bus Rapid Transit and integrated transfer hubs has strengthened connections among central business districts, residential areas and major service nodes, gradually improving the city's mobility structure. The improvement of transportation systems is not only about reducing congestion at specific locations, but also about reorganizing population flows and employment mobility across the wider metropolitan area.

Water management reflects Jakarta's long-term adaptation to natural conditions and urban expansion pressures. Through improvements in drainage systems, river management, coastal protection and low-lying area safety, the city continues to strengthen infrastructure and risk governance. For Jakarta, resilience is not an abstract concept, but a daily urban capacity closely linked to mobility, drainage, housing safety and public services.

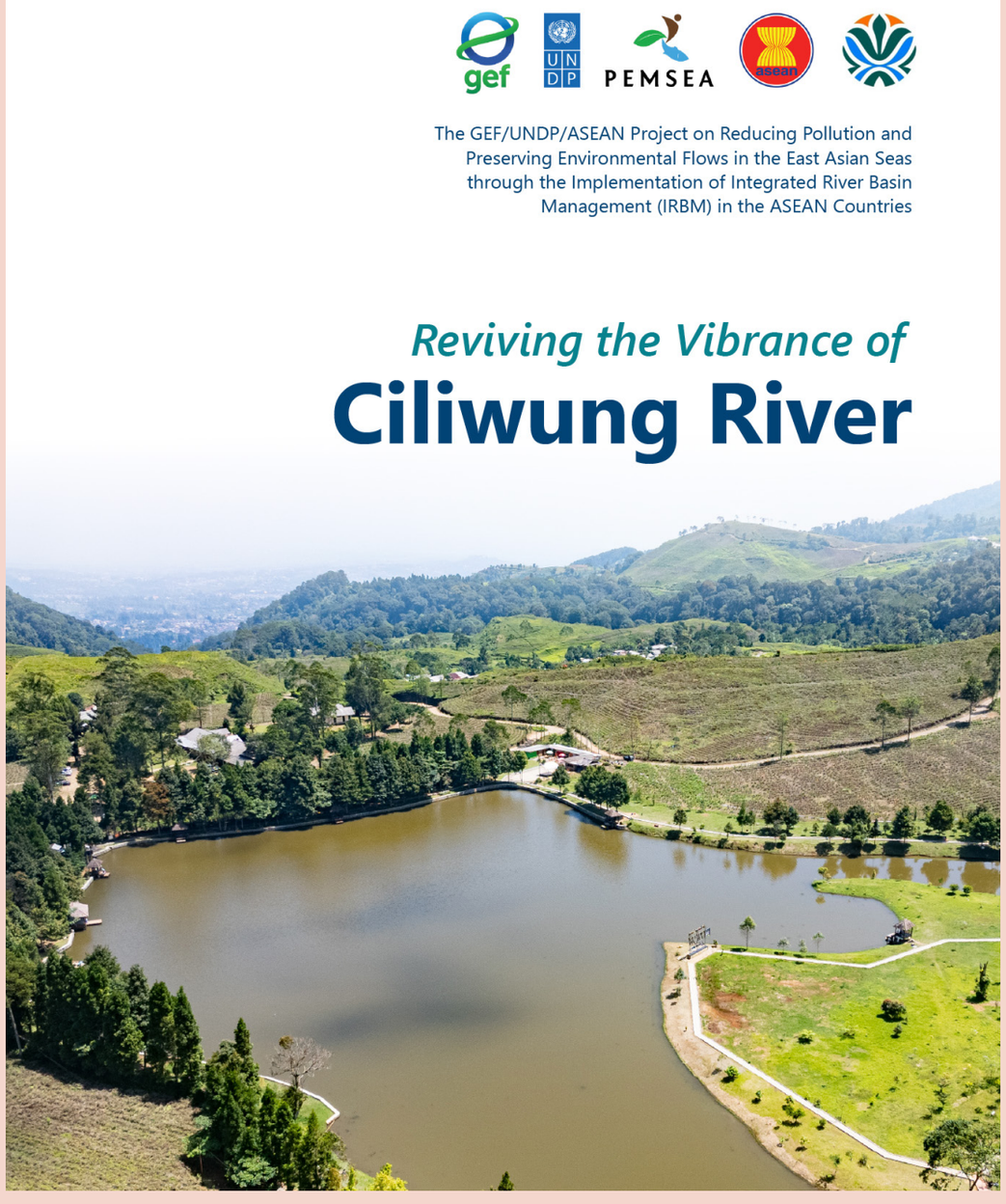
Public Transportation System: Strengthening Commuting Through Rail and BRT Networks

Through MRT Jakarta, TransJakarta BRT and integrated transit hubs, Jakarta connects central business districts, residential areas and service nodes, improving public transport accessibility and commuting efficiency.



Ciliwung River Management: Strengthening Urban Water System Capacity

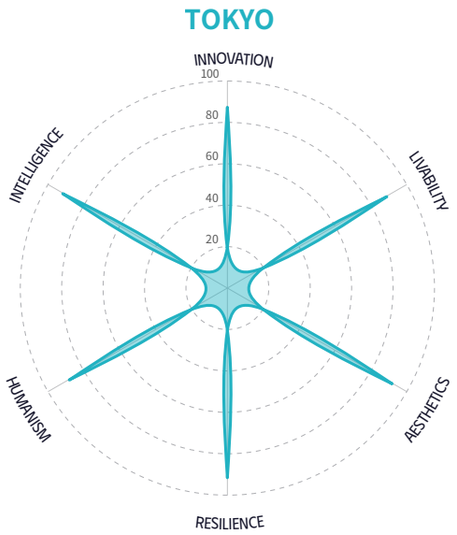
Through river improvement, drainage enhancement and stormwater management, Jakarta reduces flood risks and supports safer urban operations and improved public environments in high-density areas.





2.8 Tokyo: A Global Metropolis Where Tradition and Modernity Coexist

UIS six-dimensional observation highlights Tokyo's balanced and integrated development across multiple dimensions, reflecting the characteristics of a mature global city. A high-density built environment, extensive rail transit network and polycentric urban structure jointly support the stable operation of a large population, diverse industries and everyday urban life. The Resilience dimension reflects Tokyo's long-term accumulation of governance capacity in addressing complex risks, including earthquakes, flooding and energy disruptions, with disaster prevention infrastructure, seismic building standards and community emergency systems deeply embedded into urban operations. Meanwhile, Tokyo's Humanism dimension is rooted in the coexistence of tradition and contemporary life, where historic neighborhoods, temples and shrines, commercial districts, museums and contemporary art spaces are woven together within a dense urban fabric. UIS observes Tokyo as a global metropolis that achieves a mature balance between density, efficiency and quality of life through systematic coordination.







Key Data

Population

14.22 million

Administrative Area

2,194 km²

Population Density

6,481 people/km²

GDP per Capita

USD **64,000**

Urban Character

· A high-density urban environment supporting global-scale population and economic activities
· An extensive rail network supporting polycentric mobility and jobs–housing balance

UIS Perspective: A Mature Global City with Balanced Six-Dimensional Development

From UIS six-dimensional indicators, Tokyo's strengths are reflected not in a single dimension, but in the coordinated support of comprehensive capabilities, resilience governance and cultural depth. Rail networks, digital infrastructure and public services ensure efficient urban operations; disaster prevention systems and built environment management strengthen urban resilience; while traditional culture, community life and public cultural spaces collectively form Tokyo's stable and profound urban soft power.



Tokyo: UIS Six-Dimensional Evaluation

Highlight 1 Comprehensive Capabilities Supporting Global Urban Performance

Tokyo's comprehensive strength does not come from a single leading advantage, but from the systemic balance developed through long-term metropolitan operations. The interaction among the six dimensions enables Tokyo to maintain a high level of integrated performance while accommodating a large population within a dense urban environment.

The character is first reflected in Tokyo's rail-based metropolitan structure. With more than 800 stations as key nodes, Tokyo concentrates residential, commercial, office, public service and leisure functions around transit hubs, creating an extensive TOD-based urban network. Commuting, daily services and leisure activities can often be completed within walkable areas, allowing dense population flows to be efficiently organized into everyday urban life.

This integrated capacity is further supported by ecological spaces and innovation resources. Green systems including the Imperial Palace Outer Gardens, Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden and Ueno Park provide ecological space within the dense urban fabric. Meanwhile, universities, research institutions and innovation hubs continue to strengthen Tokyo's position in global innovation networks. Together, transit systems, green infrastructure and knowledge resources form the foundation of Tokyo's comprehensive urban capacity.

Rail-Based Metropolitan Network: A Livable Solution Through TOD

With more than 800 stations as nodes, Tokyo concentrates housing, commerce and public services around transit hubs, creating a citywide TOD network where commuting, daily activities and leisure can be integrated within walkable areas.



Imperial Palace Green Belt and Urban Park System: Ecological Space Within Density



Centered on the Imperial Palace Outer Gardens and connected with major green spaces such as Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden and Ueno Park, Tokyo has developed an extensive urban park network that integrates ecological quality into everyday life within a high-density built environment.

Industry–Academia Collaboration: From University Networks to Innovation Ecosystems

Leading universities such as the University of Tokyo, Waseda University and Keio University, together with innovation hubs such as Tsukuba Science City and Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City, form a collaborative network supporting research, entrepreneurship and technology transfer.







Highlight 2 A Mature and Comprehensive Resilience Governance System

Tokyo's resilience capacity is rooted in long-term urban practices shaped by multiple risks. Earthquakes, floods, typhoons, tsunamis and energy disruptions have encouraged Tokyo to integrate safety considerations into the foundation of urban development. Rather than focusing on individual disaster responses, Tokyo's resilience approach emphasizes full-cycle management, from risk prevention and infrastructure protection to emergency response, community self-help and post-disaster recovery.

This capacity is reflected in both large-scale infrastructure and everyday urban environments. The Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel provides major flood-control support through underground water storage and drainage systems. Tokyo Bay Area disaster management planning integrates multiple risks including earthquakes, tsunamis and flooding into a coordinated framework covering evacuation routes, emergency supplies and community cooperation. Meanwhile, continuous seismic reinforcement of existing buildings embeds disaster preparedness into everyday urban maintenance and renewal.

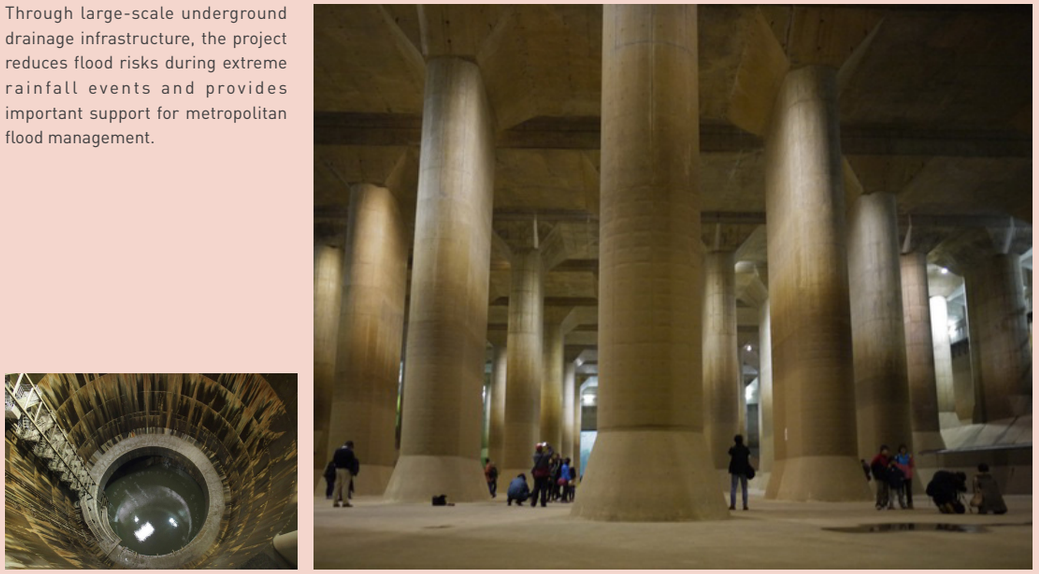
Tokyo Bay Area Disaster Management Planning: A Full-Cycle Risk Governance Framework

Integrating earthquake, tsunami and flood risks, the planning framework coordinates evacuation routes, emergency resources and community preparedness to build a comprehensive disaster management system covering prevention, response and recovery.

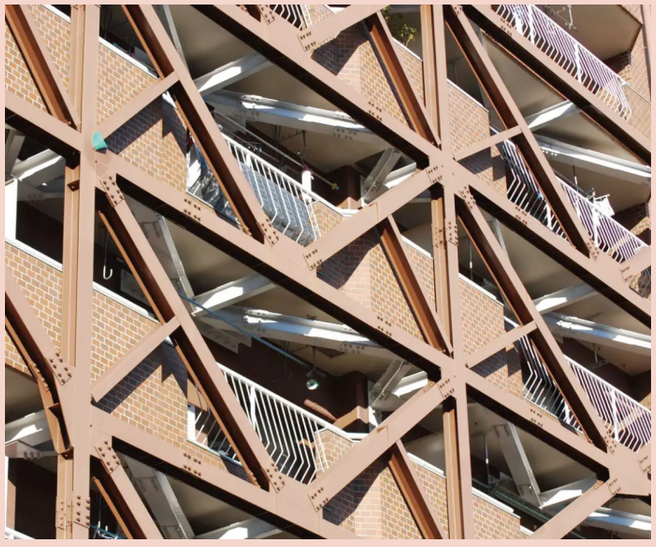


Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel: Underground Flood Control Infrastructure

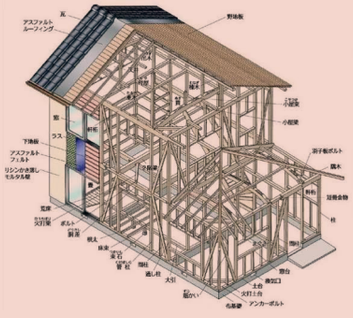
Through large-scale underground drainage infrastructure, the project reduces flood risks during extreme rainfall events and provides important support for metropolitan flood management.



Seismic Building Upgrades: Embedding Disaster Preparedness into Urban Fabric



Through continuous seismic reinforcement of existing buildings, Tokyo integrates disaster resilience into everyday building management and urban renewal processes.



Highlight 3 Cultural Depth Supporting Urban Soft Power

Tokyo's cultural influence exists not only in museums, galleries and historic landmarks, but also within everyday urban life. Traditional neighborhoods, craftsmanship, temples and shrines, commercial streets, contemporary architecture and art exhibitions coexist within the same city, creating a layered cultural landscape. Tradition has not been replaced by modernity; instead, it continues to be used, experienced and reinterpreted through evolving urban life.

Asakusa and Roppongi provide two contrasting perspectives for understanding Tokyo's cultural character. Nakamise Street in Asakusa preserves the scale of Edo-era streets and traditional shops, maintaining a tangible connection to historic urban life. In contrast, Roppongi Hills, Mori Art Museum and 21_21 Design Sight represent contemporary art, design and international cultural exchange. At a neighborhood scale, areas such as Yanaka Ginza transform historic streets into living communities, allowing cultural heritage to remain connected with everyday life.

Asakusa × Roppongi: Tradition and Contemporary Culture Coexisting in One City

Asakusa preserves Edo-era street patterns and traditional shops, while Roppongi Hills, Mori Art Museum and 21_21 Design Sight represent contemporary art and design culture. Together, they demonstrate Tokyo's ability to integrate different layers of cultural experience within a single metropolitan system.











Yanaka Ginza: Integrating Historic Neighborhoods into Everyday Life

By preserving historic street patterns and supporting locally operated shops, Yanaka Ginza transforms heritage areas into active and living communities.



Public Cultural Space Network: Integrating Art into Everyday Urban Life

Through a dense network of museums, galleries and cultural institutions, Tokyo integrates art and cultural experiences into everyday urban environments.

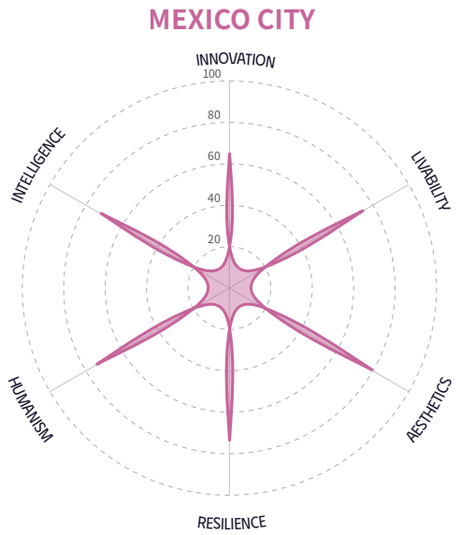


MEXICO CITY

UIS ASIA-PACIFIC PILOT CITIES OBSERVATION REPORT 2026

2.9 Mexico City: A Complex Megacity Shaped by Cultural Identity

UIS six-dimensional observation highlights Mexico City's distinctive characteristics shaped by strong cultural identity, vibrant public life and complex resilience pressures. The Humanism dimension is supported by the Historic Center, traditional festivals, street life and diverse community cultures, creating a strong sense of urban identity and cultural attraction. The Livability and Aesthetics dimensions are closely connected with public spaces, neighborhood vitality and everyday services. Meanwhile, located in a highland basin, Mexico City has long faced multiple risks including earthquakes, land subsidence, water stress, flooding and air quality challenges. Resilience governance and infrastructure adaptation provide an important lens for understanding the city's development.







Key Data

Population

9.21 million

Administrative Area

1,940 km²

Population Density

4,747 people/km²

GDP per Capita

USD **29,300**

Urban Character

· Rich cultural resources where historical memory, public spaces and everyday life are deeply interconnected

· Strong concentration of population and urban functions, forming a major regional center

UIS Perspective: Cultural Vitality and Resilience Challenges Shaping a Latin American Megacity

From UIS six-dimensional indicators, Mexico City's urban characteristics are shaped by the interaction between cultural vitality, public life and resilience pressures. Historic districts, cultural festivals, street culture and community life jointly support its Humanism dimension, creating a strong sense of identity and emotional connection. Meanwhile, long-term challenges related to earthquakes, land subsidence, water resources, flooding and air quality continue to influence urban safety, infrastructure and living environments. Cultural identity and resilience adaptation together form the city's most distinctive characteristics.



Mexico City: UIS Six-Dimensional Evaluation

Highlight 1 Cultural Vitality Supporting Urban Identity

Mexico City's cultural vitality is rooted in the close connection between historic spaces and public life. As one of Latin America's most important cultural centers, the city integrates heritage into everyday urban experiences through plazas, streets, festivals, markets and community activities. The processes of walking, gathering, consuming and participating in historic areas allow residents and visitors to continuously experience the city's historical depth and cultural identity.

The Historic Center provides an important entry point for understanding Mexico City's cultural character. Spaces such as Zócalo, the Metropolitan Cathedral, the National Palace and the Templo Mayor archaeological site form the city's core historical landscape. Colonial architecture, Indigenous heritage and contemporary public activities overlap here, creating a powerful urban symbol. The area functions both as a representation of collective memory and as a venue for gatherings, celebrations, tourism and everyday public life.

The Day of the Dead demonstrates how traditional culture continues to evolve within contemporary urban life. Through parades, altars, flowers, costumes and public art, personal remembrance is transformed into a shared urban experience, allowing traditions to extend across neighborhoods, streets and public spaces. Neighborhoods such as Roma–Condesa continue everyday cultural vitality through cafés, bookstores, restaurants, tree-lined streets and community activities, reflecting Mexico City's openness, diversity and vibrant street life.

Together, these spaces and activities demonstrate that Mexico City's cultural strength comes not only from its historical resources, but also from its ability to continuously activate, express and share them. The Humanism dimension observed by UIS is shaped by the interaction between historic spaces, cultural events and everyday neighborhood life.

Historic Center: Carrying Collective Memory and Public Life

Historic spaces including Zócalo, the Metropolitan Cathedral, the National Palace and the Templo Mayor archaeological site form Mexico City's most representative cultural core and public gathering space.



Day of the Dead: Transforming Tradition into a Shared Urban Experience

Through parades, altars, flowers, costumes and public art, traditional celebrations extend from private remembrance into city-wide cultural experiences, strengthening urban identity and cultural expression.



Roma–Condesa Neighborhoods: Sustaining Everyday Cultural Vitality Through Street Life

Through tree-lined streets, local businesses, cafés, restaurants and community activities, the neighborhoods create open, diverse and walkable urban living environments.



Highlight 2 Resilience Governance Under Multiple Urban Risks

Mexico City's resilience challenges are closely linked to its geographical conditions and urban expansion process. Located in a highland basin, the city faces interconnected risks including earthquakes, land subsidence, water stress, flooding and air quality issues. These challenges place long-term pressures on infrastructure safety, ecological restoration and public service provision. For Mexico City, resilience is not limited to responding to individual disasters, but involves integrated governance across water systems, spatial structures, infrastructure and community life.

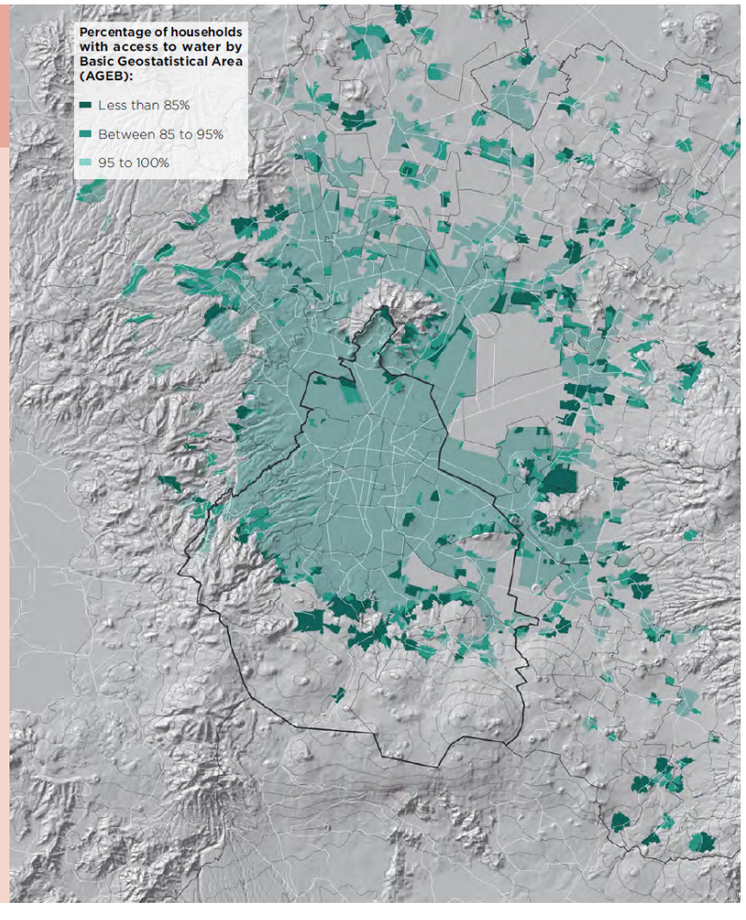
Water security and land subsidence provide important lenses for understanding Mexico City's resilience pressures. Long-term groundwater extraction, urban expansion and drainage system pressures have created interconnected challenges involving water supply, ground deformation and flood management. The city needs to continuously balance water security, drainage capacity, ecological improvement and subsidence risk mitigation.

Earthquake risks have also made building safety and emergency governance long-term priorities. Following major earthquakes, Mexico City has continuously strengthened building regulations, monitoring systems, emergency response and public safety awareness. Challenges related to air quality and urban heat have further encouraged actions in green space development, public transportation improvement and environmental management.

Together, these issues shape Mexico City's resilience governance landscape. The city must respond to sudden disasters while addressing long-term pressures across water, land, air, mobility and infrastructure systems. The Resilience dimension observed by UIS highlights the importance of integrated adaptation under such a complex risk environment.

Water Resilience Management: Moving from Engineering Solutions to Integrated Water Governance

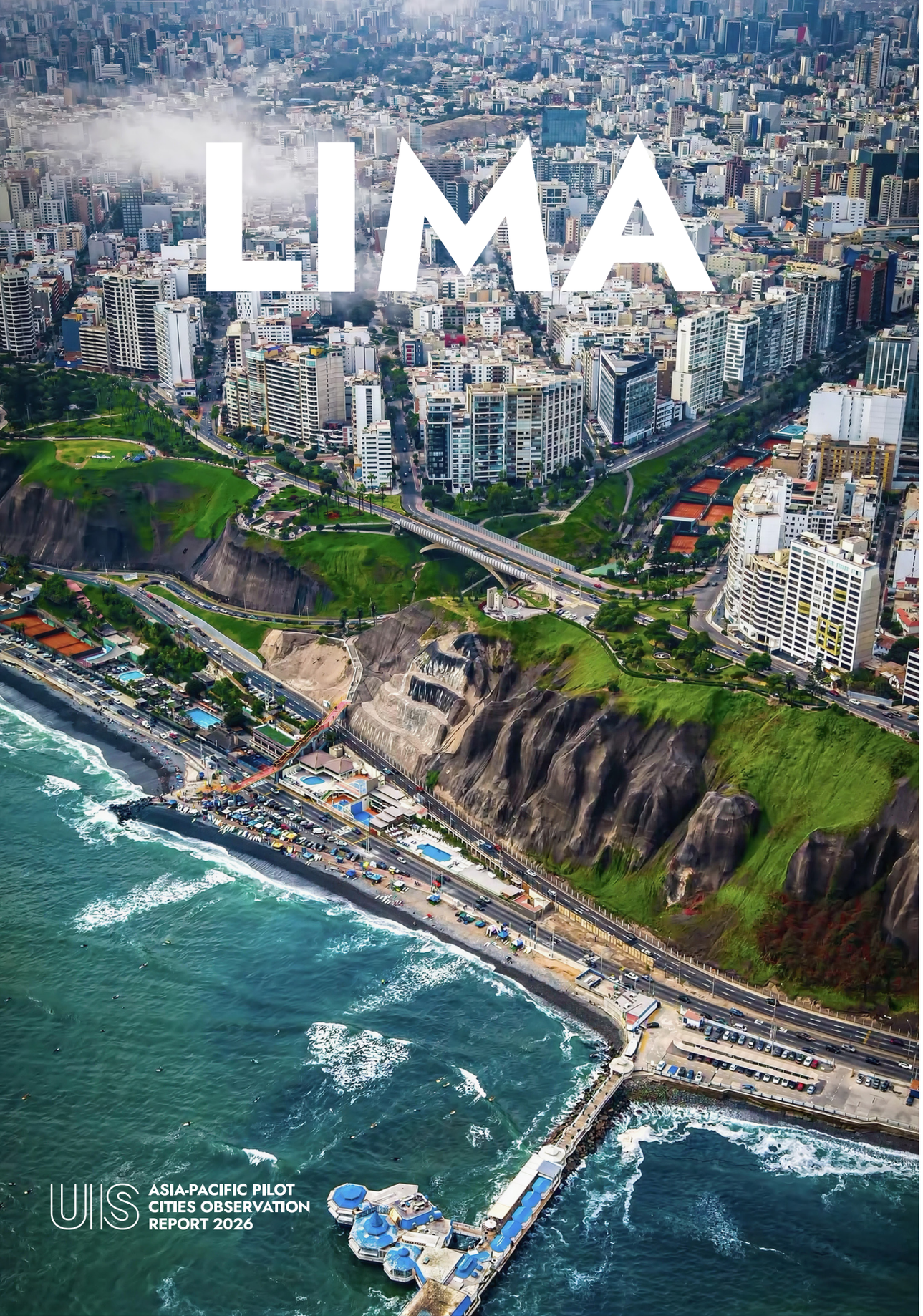
Through efforts focused on water security, groundwater management, rainwater collection and flood prevention, Mexico City promotes integrated water governance to address the long-term challenge of balancing water scarcity and flooding risks.



Regional Resilience Planning: Integrating Risk Governance into Spatial Planning

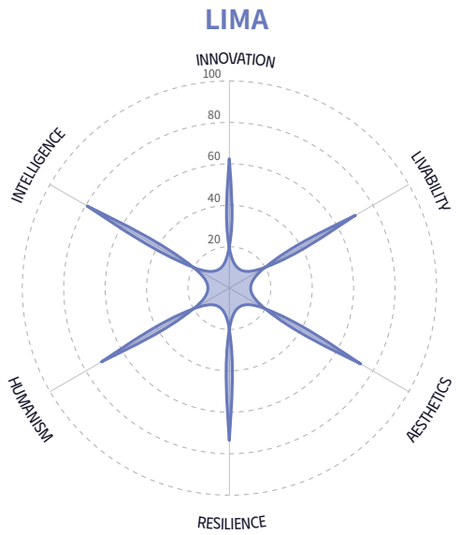
Through the protection of ecological conservation areas, restoration of green spaces, management of urban expansion and regional coordination, Mexico City integrates risk governance into urban and regional planning processes.





2.10 Lima: A Coastal City Continuously Adapting Under Natural Constraints

UIS six-dimensional observation highlights Lima as a coastal city whose development is deeply shaped by natural conditions. Stretching along the Pacific coast, the city weaves together cliffs, shoreline landscapes and urban space, forming a distinctive coastal setting and way of life. At the same time, the historic center, traditional neighborhoods and diverse communities continue to sustain the city's cultural memory. As a megacity located in an arid coastal environment, Lima faces long-term challenges related to water security, ecological protection and urban expansion. How to balance urban growth, environmental protection and quality of life under natural constraints remains a key direction of the city's ongoing development.







Key Data

Population

10.15 million

Administrative Area

800 km²

Population Density

12,689 people/km²

GDP per Capita

USD **10,000**

Urban Character

· Coastal landscapes are closely connected with recreation and community life

· Historic and cultural resources continue to link urban memory with public life

UIS Perspective: Coastal Character and Environmental Adaptation Shaping Urban Identity

From UIS six-dimensional indicators, Lima's urban characteristics are shaped by the combined influence of coastal landscapes, cultural heritage and environmental adaptation. Its shoreline, cliffside parks and coastal corridors strengthen the city's Aesthetics dimension while also providing important spaces for everyday leisure, exercise and public activities. The historic center and traditional neighborhoods sustain Lima's cultural identity. Meanwhile, water constraints, ecological protection and urban expansion pressures continue to shape the city's resilience foundation and long-term livability. Together, coastal character and adaptive governance form Lima's most distinctive urban features.



Lima: UIS Six-Dimensional Evaluation

Highlight 1 A Distinctive Coastal Urban Character

Lima's most distinctive urban characteristic comes from the coastal spaces shaped by the Pacific shoreline and dramatic cliff terrain. The city stretches along the coast, where multiple waterfront neighborhoods use elevation changes, ocean views, roadways and public spaces to create continuous experiences of walking, cycling, sightseeing and recreation. In Lima, the coast is not simply a scenic resource, but an important spatial framework that organizes urban identity, public life and daily activity.

Costa Verde provides an important lens for understanding Lima's coastal character. Extending along the Pacific shoreline, it links beaches, coastal roads, cliff edges and urban neighborhoods, forming Lima's most representative waterfront landscape belt. Neighborhoods such as Miraflores and Barranco further transform coastal scenery into accessible public space through parks, promenades, viewing platforms and cultural and commercial venues.

This coastal character also supports Lima's urban appeal. Cliffside parks, waterfront green spaces, coastal paths and ocean-facing public activities create a strong sense of open-space quality even within an arid environment. The Aesthetics and Livability dimensions observed by UIS are reflected in this close connection between coastal landscapes and everyday public life.

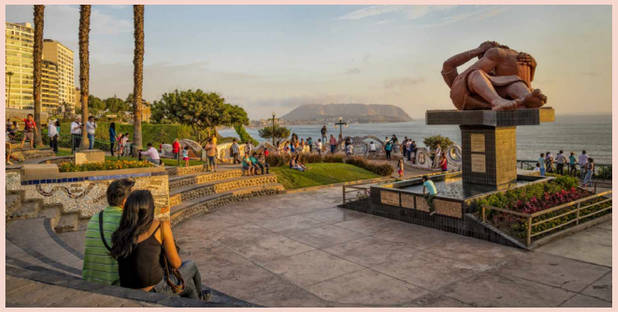
Costa Verde: Connecting the City with the Pacific Coast

Supported by coastal roads, beaches, cliffs and public waterfront spaces, Costa Verde forms Lima's most representative coastal landscape and strengthens the city's connection with the ocean.



Miraflores Waterfront Parks: Turning Coastal Landscapes into Everyday Public Space

Through cliffside parks, walking paths, cycling routes and viewing platforms, the area transforms ocean views into everyday places for leisure, exercise and social interaction.



Larcomar: Activating the Urban Coast Through a Landmark Destination



By embedding commercial functions, public art, viewing platforms and leisure activities into the cliff edge, Larcomar enhances the attractiveness and public use of Lima's coastal spaces.

Highlight 2 Exploring Resilience Adaptation Under Water Constraints

Lima's environmental adaptation challenges are closely linked to its arid coastal climate and rapid urban expansion. Located in a region with limited rainfall, the city relies heavily on mountain water sources and watershed systems. At the same time, urban expansion continues to place pressure on river valleys, mountain edges and ecological buffer areas. Ensuring urban operation while preserving essential ecological spaces has become a key aspect of Lima's resilience development.

Fog oases represent a distinctive natural system in Lima's ecological adaptation. Influenced by coastal fog, seasonal vegetation landscapes have formed in parts of the surrounding hills and slopes, providing support for biodiversity and ecological buffering in an arid environment. Protecting these areas strengthens ecological resilience at the urban fringe while allowing residents to rediscover unique natural resources within a desert city.

River valley systems provide another layer of ecological support. Rivers and valleys such as the Rímac, Chillón and Lurín are not only related to water supply and drainage, but also serve as ecological corridors, ventilation channels, agricultural landscapes and regional connections. Through river restoration, public space improvement and watershed management, Lima is exploring approaches that integrate water resource management, ecological protection and urban spatial quality.

For Lima, environmental adaptation is not a single engineering challenge, but a comprehensive coordination among water resources, ecological buffers, urban expansion and public spaces. The Resilience dimension observed by UIS is gradually revealed through these long-term adaptation practices.

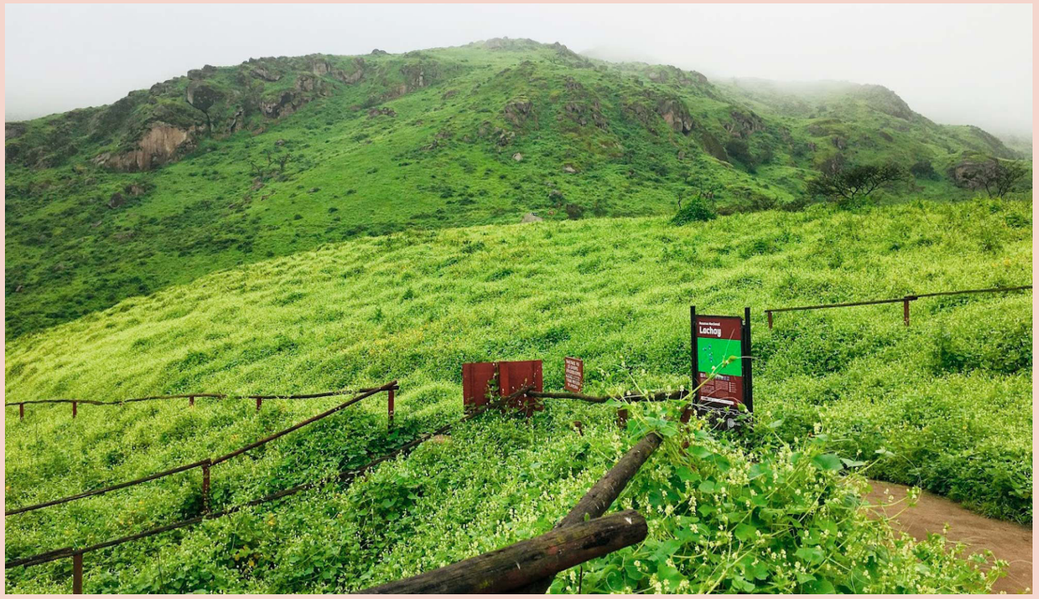
Amunas Traditional Water System Restoration: Strengthening Dry-Season Water Supply Through Highland Recharge

By restoring traditional infiltration and water storage systems, the project guides seasonal mountain runoff into the ground and gradually releases stored water, strengthening watershed support for urban water supply.



Lomas de Lima Fog Oases: Protecting Ecological Buffers in an Arid City

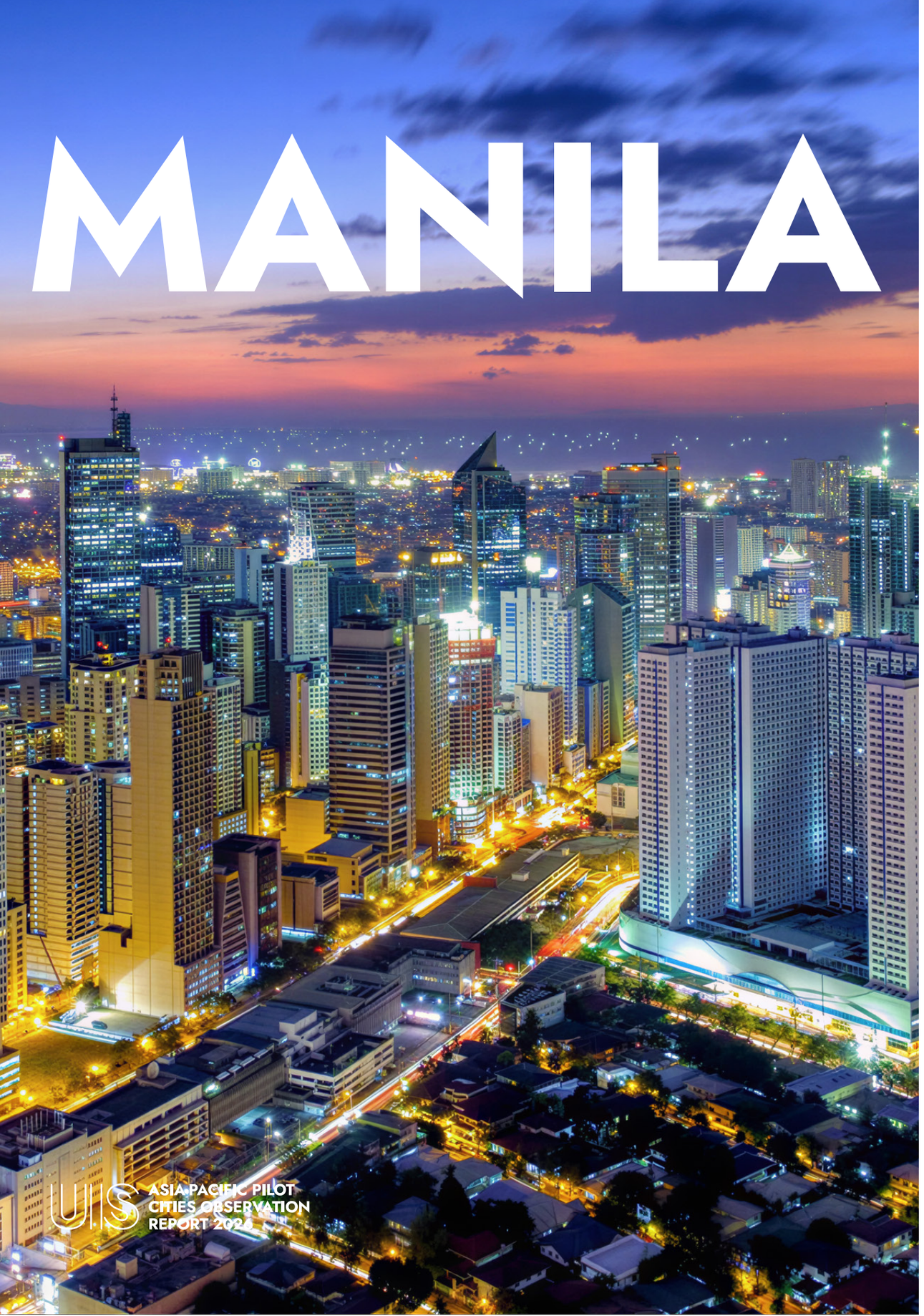
Based on seasonal vegetation systems formed by coastal fog, the initiative protects biodiversity and ecological landscapes along mountain edges, providing important ecological buffers for the urban area.



Rímac River Basin: Integrating Water Management with Urban Space Governance

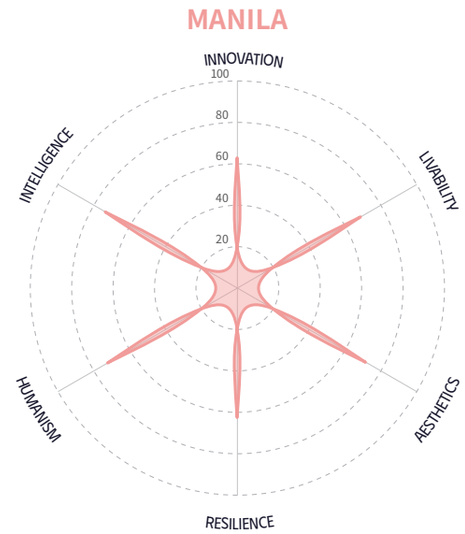
Through river restoration, water resource protection and improvements along the river corridor, the project explores ways to connect watershed management with enhanced urban public space quality.





2.11 Manila: A Growth-Oriented City Advancing Urban Capacity Amid Population Dynamism

UIS six-dimensional observation highlights Manila's distinctive characteristics shaped by high-density development and gateway functions. As the core of the Philippines' National Capital Region and an important gateway city, Manila concentrates diverse functions including population, employment, ports, commerce, education, finance and public administration, supporting its urban vitality in the Livability and Humanism dimensions. At the same time, extremely high-density development has made traffic congestion, equitable access to basic services, flood risks and public space quality important factors influencing urban operations. UIS observes Manila as a growth-oriented metropolis that accommodates intensive urban activities within limited space while continuously responding to pressures related to mobility, services and resilience.







Key Data

Population

13.48 million

Administrative Area

620 km²

Population Density

21,764 people/km²

GDP per Capita

USD **11,800**

Urban Character

· High-density concentration of national-level functions

· Gateway functions and urban vitality supported by Manila Bay, port activities and commercial spaces

UIS Perspective: Population Density and Service Economy Shaping Urban Potential

From UIS six-dimensional indicators, Manila's urban characteristics are shaped by the interaction between population density, service functions and gateway connections. Commercial activities, financial services, educational resources, port logistics and public administration functions are highly concentrated, generating strong urban vitality and employment opportunities. Meanwhile, intensive commuting, pressure on basic services, flood risks and limited public spaces continue to influence daily living quality and urban resilience. The interaction between growth potential and capacity pressures forms one of Manila's most distinctive development characteristics.



Manila: UIS Six-Dimensional Evaluation

Highlight 1 High-Density Urban Vitality

Manila's most distinctive urban characteristic is its ability to accommodate intensive population, employment and service activities within limited space. Commercial centers, office districts, port facilities, educational institutions and residential communities are closely interconnected, sustaining a dense and active urban environment. For Manila, high density brings pressures on transportation, housing and services, while also creating frequent interactions, consumption activities and employment opportunities that define its urban vitality.

This urban vitality is clearly reflected in several key spatial nodes. Makati serves as one of Manila's most important financial and business centers, concentrating headquarters, banking services, hotels, commercial activities and professional services. Bonifacio Global City represents a newer model of mixed-use urban development, integrating offices, housing, retail, public spaces and cultural activities to create a more contemporary urban environment. The Mall of Asia waterfront area combines large-scale commercial functions, exhibitions, leisure activities and waterfront public spaces, supporting high-frequency consumption and urban public life.

Together, these spaces demonstrate that Manila's urban vitality comes not only from its population scale, but also from the continuous interaction among commerce, services, employment and public activities within a high-density urban setting.

Makati CBD: Concentrating Financial and Modern Service Functions

Supported by headquarters offices, financial institutions, hotels, commercial activities and professional services, the district forms one of Manila's most representative economic centers.



Bonifacio Global City: Creating a New Mixed-Use Urban Lifestyle

Through the integration of offices, residential areas, commercial functions, public spaces and cultural activities, the district represents an emerging business and lifestyle center.



Mall of Asia Waterfront Area: Supporting Commercial Activities and Public Life



Through large-scale retail, exhibition, leisure and waterfront open spaces, the area supports high-frequency consumption activities and urban public life.

Highlight 2 Youth Population and Service Economy Supporting Urban Vitality

Manila's development vitality is closely connected with its young population, educational resources and service economy. As the Philippines' major center for employment, education and public services, Manila attracts large numbers of young people for study, work and entrepreneurship. The interaction among population mobility, education and training, service-sector employment and digital economy activities enables the city to maintain strong adaptability and everyday vitality.

University clusters and higher education resources provide an important foundation for Manila's talent ecosystem. Concentrations of universities, training institutions and student communities create active youth-oriented environments where bookstores, restaurants, housing, transportation and cultural activities are closely interconnected. The continued concentration of young people sustains vitality in education, consumption, employment and cultural expression.

The BPO industry and modern services provide another source of development momentum. Call centers, business process outsourcing, financial services, digital services and shared workspaces create extensive employment opportunities for young residents while strengthening Manila's role as a regional service center. The office districts, commercial facilities and night-time economy associated with these industries extend urban activities across longer hours and enhance the intensity of service functions.

From university networks to the service economy, and from youth employment to everyday consumption, Manila's vitality is reflected in the continuous connections among people, jobs and urban services. The development potential identified by UIS is increasingly demonstrated through this youthful and service-oriented economic structure.

University Belt: Supporting Youth Talent Through Higher Education Clusters

With universities and training institutions concentrated in the area, University Belt forms a youth-oriented urban district where education, housing, consumption and cultural activities are closely integrated.



BPO Industry: Driving Youth Employment Through Service Economy

Through the concentration of call centers, business process outsourcing, financial services and digital industries, the BPO sector provides employment opportunities for young people and strengthens Manila's service-oriented economic functions.

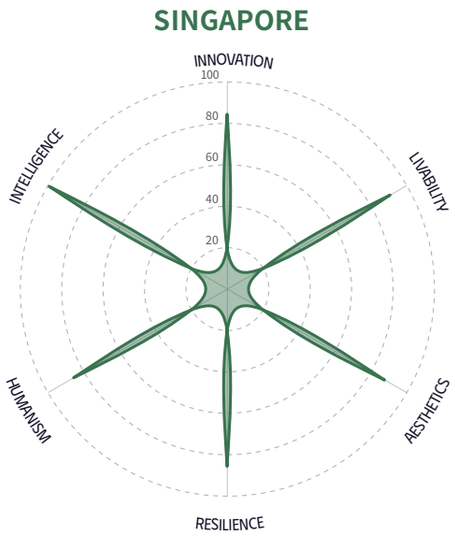


SINGAPORE

UIS ASIA-PACIFIC PILOT CITIES OBSERVATION REPORT 2026

2.12 Singapore: A Global Model of High-Density Livability

UIS six-dimensional observation highlights Singapore's strong performance in Intelligence, Innovation, Livability and Aesthetics. As a city-state with limited land and significant resource constraints, Singapore has achieved high efficiency and quality in a high-density environment through long-term planning, integrated infrastructure and precise urban governance. Digital governance, innovation ecosystems, public housing, rail transit and green networks have been embedded into a continuous urban development process, enabling urban operations, community life and ecological systems to function in close coordination. UIS observes Singapore as a high-density livable city that leverages strong governance capacity to support urban performance, while shaping global competitiveness through smart capabilities and the Garden City vision.







Key Data

Population

6.11 million

Administrative Area

744 km²

Population Density

8,209 people/km²

GDP per Capita

USD **98,900**

Urban Character

· Garden City strategy with green infrastructure as a core urban asset
· HDB housing system providing affordable living and supporting social integration

UIS Perspective: A Mature Global City with Balanced Six-Dimensional Development

Singapore's strengths are reflected across four interconnected dimensions: Intelligence, Innovation, Livability and Aesthetics. Smart governance and innovation ecosystems reinforce each other, enabling the city to continuously connect global capital, technology and talent within a limited land area. Meanwhile, public housing and the Garden City strategy work together to transform housing security, community life and ecological systems into long-term urban competitiveness.



Singapore: UIS Six-Dimensional Evaluation

Highlight 1 Intelligence × Innovation — Integrated Development from Digital Governance to Innovation Ecosystems

Singapore's smart city development is not simply an accumulation of technologies, but an integrated approach combining national strategy, innovation capacity and urban operations. Through the Smart Nation initiative, Singapore has connected digital infrastructure, public services, urban data and industry development, allowing digital capabilities to support both effective governance and innovation-driven growth.

In innovation spaces, one-north integrates universities, research institutions and multinational R&D centers, creating a continuous pathway from basic research to commercial application. Changi Business Park, supported by Singapore's global aviation connectivity, open business environment and intellectual property protection system, attracts international companies to establish regional headquarters and innovation functions. Together, these two types of spaces connect local research capacity with global innovation networks, forming important pillars of Singapore's innovation ecosystem.

Punggol Digital District represents another direction of Singapore's smart city development. As a flagship smart district, it integrates energy, mobility, environment and public services through digital platforms. Sensor networks, smart energy systems, community service terminals and green building standards are embedded into everyday urban life. Through this approach, Singapore's smart capabilities extend beyond government systems into neighborhoods, communities and households, becoming an integral part of high-density urban management.

One-North: An Integrated Research and Innovation Cluster

Bringing together research capabilities from institutions such as the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University, along with hundreds of multinational R&D centers, one-north forms a complete innovation chain from scientific research to industrial application.



Changi Business Park: Connecting Global Capital and Local Innovation

Supported by an open investment environment and strong intellectual property protection, Changi Business Park continues to attract global companies' R&D functions. Government research support and international collaboration networks further accelerate technology transfer, creating a dynamic interaction between global investment and local innovation.



Punggol Digital District: A City-Scale Smart Urban Experiment

As a flagship project under Singapore's Smart Nation strategy, Punggol Digital District integrates digital systems covering energy, mobility, environment and public services. Real-time data supports urban management and decision-making, while smart grids, autonomous shuttle services, digital community platforms and green building standards extend smart governance from public administration into residents' daily lives.





Highlight 2 Livability × Aesthetics — Integrating Housing Security with Ecological Urbanism

Singapore's livability is built upon the long-term integration of public housing and green city strategies. Around 80% of residents live in public housing developed by the Housing & Development Board (HDB). These housing estates function beyond residential buildings, integrating housing security, public services, social integration and community life within the same urban framework.

Within HDB communities, neighborhood centers, markets, parks, schools and public transport connections form an integrated daily living network. Residents can access essential services, recreation, commuting and social activities within walking distance, transforming high-density living into a convenient, inclusive and stable urban environment. For Singapore, housing policy addresses not only where people live, but also how different communities share and build urban life together.

At the same time, ecological systems are systematically integrated into the high-density urban fabric. Gardens by the Bay introduces tropical landscapes into the city center, transforming green infrastructure into both a landmark and a public space. Vertical greenery, rooftop gardens and sky gardens extend nature beyond the ground level and into the vertical city. A connected park network further links green spaces, waterfront areas and nature reserves across the island, making the Garden City vision a daily experience accessible to residents.

HDB Communities: Housing Security and Community Building

Around 80% of Singapore's residents live in public housing developed by HDB. Through integrated planning, comprehensive facilities and ethnic integration policies, HDB estates transform housing provision into a foundation for social cohesion. Neighborhood centers, markets, parks and public transport connections create self-sufficient communities where daily needs can be reached within walking distance.

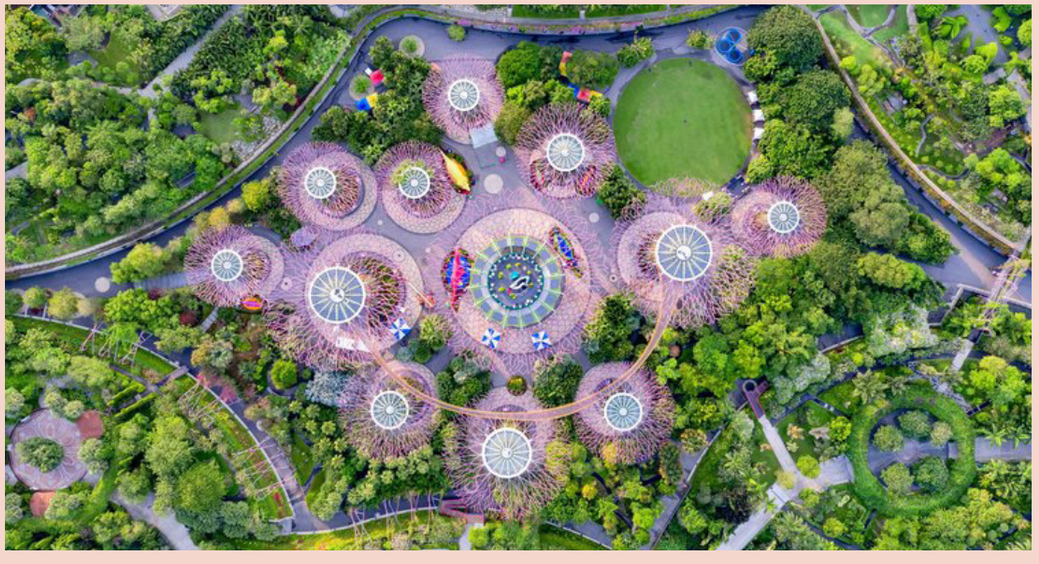






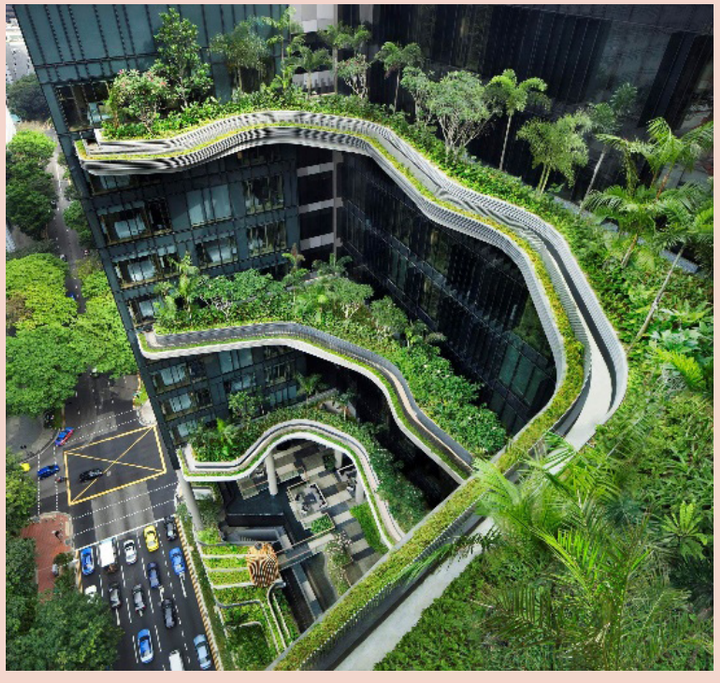
Gardens by the Bay: Ecological Landmark Integrated into Urban Life

By introducing tropical landscapes into the city center, Gardens by the Bay transforms green infrastructure from a visual landmark into an everyday public space for recreation and social activities.



Vertical Greening: Integrating Nature into the High-Density City

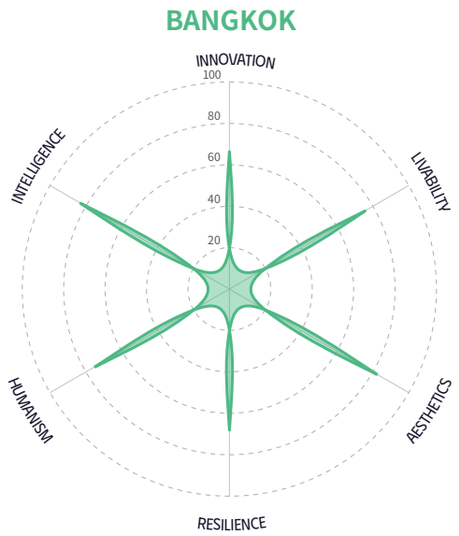
Sky gardens, green roofs and vertical greenery systems extend ecological networks throughout the built environment. Connected green corridors link parks and nature reserves across the island, bringing ecological quality into every layer of the vertical city.



BANGKOK

2.13 Bangkok: An International City Shaped by Diverse Urban Lifestyles

UIS six-dimensional observation highlights Bangkok's distinctive characteristics shaped by regional gateway functions and vibrant everyday life. As Thailand's capital and a regional center, Bangkok concentrates diverse functions including commerce, tourism, healthcare, education, culture and transportation, supporting its active performance in the Humanism and Livability dimensions. At the same time, challenges related to traffic congestion, water management, limited public spaces and climate adaptation continue to influence urban efficiency and living quality. UIS observes Bangkok as a high-vitality city that builds its attractiveness through service consumption and public life while continuously responding to mobility and environmental pressures.







Key Data

Population

5.46 million

Administrative Area

1,569 km²

Population Density

3,477 people/km²

GDP per Capita

USD **19,800**

Urban Character

· Strong regional gateway functions in transportation and services

· Diverse urban lifestyles shaped by shopping complexes, street economy, nightlife, religious culture and waterfront spaces

UIS Perspective: Everyday Urban Vibrancy Shaping Bangkok's Attractiveness

From UIS six-dimensional indicators, Bangkok's urban characteristics are shaped by highly active commercial services, cultural experiences and public life. Shopping centers, tourism spaces, street economy and historic neighborhoods jointly support urban vitality, while temples, historic areas and cultural festivals strengthen the city's Humanism dimension. Green spaces, public space improvements and small-scale urban renewal further influence its Livability performance. UIS observes Bangkok as a vibrant city that continuously builds its attractiveness through everyday activities, cultural expression and spatial transformation.



Bangkok: UIS Six-Dimensional Evaluation

Highlight 1 Service and Consumption Vitality Supporting Urban Attractiveness

Bangkok's urban vitality is first reflected in its highly active commercial activities, tourism services and neighborhood life. Large shopping complexes, traditional markets, night-time economies, food districts and religious-cultural attractions are distributed throughout the city, maintaining intensive urban activities across different times of the day. For Bangkok, consumption spaces are more than commercial facilities; they also serve as places for social interaction, leisure, tourism and urban experiences.

The Siam area provides an important lens for understanding Bangkok's service and consumption vitality. The district brings together major shopping centers, hotels, offices, rail transit and public activity spaces, forming one of the city's most representative modern commercial cores. The Chao Phraya River waterfront creates a mixed urban experience through shopping destinations, riverside hotels, boat transportation and cultural landmarks, serving both visitors and residents. Yaowarat Road in Chinatown preserves Bangkok's distinctive street life through street food, traditional shops, night-time activities and cultural events.

Together, these spaces demonstrate that Bangkok's attractiveness comes from continuous everyday activities. Commerce, tourism, food culture, religion and street life are constantly intertwined within the urban fabric, supporting Bangkok's active performance in the Livability and Humanism dimensions observed by UIS.

Siam Area: Concentrating Modern Commerce and Urban Consumption

Supported by shopping complexes, hotels, offices, rail transit and public activity spaces, the area forms one of Bangkok's most representative modern commercial centers.



Grand Palace–Wat Pho Area: Strengthening Tourism Appeal Through Religious Heritage

Supported by historic architecture, religious sites and tourism services, the area forms an important district combining cultural experiences, public activities and urban identity.



Yaowarat Road Chinatown: Sustaining Street Economy and Night-time Vitality

Through traditional shops, street food, night-time activities and cultural events, the area creates a vibrant neighborhood environment with intensive everyday use and distinctive local character.



Highlight 2 Improving Urban Quality Through Small-Scale Public Spaces

Bangkok's improvement in urban quality is increasingly reflected in the enhancement of small-scale public spaces and green areas. As a high-density city, Bangkok has long faced challenges related to limited green space, constrained street environments and a hot climate. Through pocket parks, community green spaces, pedestrian improvements and waterfront regeneration, the city is transforming limited existing spaces into more accessible and inviting places for everyday public life.

Initiatives such as "Green Bangkok 2030" provide an important direction for improving the city's public spaces. By expanding parks, improving green space accessibility, revitalizing underused areas and enhancing walking environments, Bangkok is seeking to increase the supply of everyday open spaces within dense urban areas. The Chulalongkorn University Centenary Park represents a notable example, integrating stormwater management, campus open space and public recreation to respond to the climate adaptation and public space needs of a tropical city.

Community-level pocket parks demonstrate another pathway for improving Bangkok's public realm. By transforming small vacant plots, street corners and neighborhood spaces into usable green areas, the city can enhance everyday experiences without relying on large-scale development. For Bangkok, improvements in public space quality often take place through these smaller, closer and more everyday urban interventions.

Green Bangkok 2030: Enhancing Urban Accessibility Through Park Networks

Through expanding parks, improving green space accessibility and revitalizing underused urban spaces, the initiative strengthens everyday open space provision in high-density areas.



Chulalongkorn University Centenary Park: Integrating Stormwater Management with Public Life

By combining green spaces, landscape slopes, water systems and public areas, the park integrates stormwater retention, recreational activities and climate adaptation functions.



Community Pocket Parks: Enhancing Everyday Public Spaces Through Small-Scale Renewal

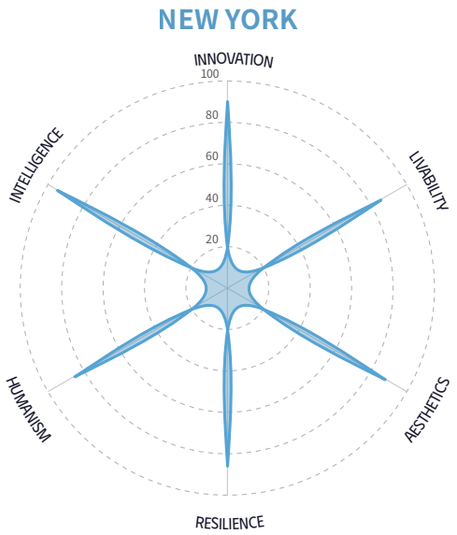
Through initiatives such as We!Park, vacant plots, street corners and community spaces are transformed into nearby green areas that provide residents with opportunities for rest, social interaction and outdoor activities.





2.14 New York: A Global Hub with Strong Resource Allocation Capacity

UIS six-dimensional observation highlights New York's distinctive characteristics shaped by the coexistence of high-level concentration and continuous urban renewal. As a leading global center for finance, business, culture and innovation, New York brings together capital markets, headquarters, universities and research institutions, cultural and artistic resources, international organizations and diverse populations, supporting its comprehensive performance in the Innovation, Humanism and Intelligence dimensions. At the same time, housing affordability, equitable access to public services, aging infrastructure renewal and climate adaptation remain important issues influencing the city's long-term Livability. UIS observes New York as a mature global city where resources are highly concentrated, public life remains vibrant, and complex urban challenges are continuously addressed through adaptive renewal.







Key Data

Population

8.48 million

Administrative Area

778 km²

Population Density

10,895 people/km²

GDP per Capita

USD **121,600**

Urban Character

· A diverse mix of urban functions supporting global activities

· A mature metropolis characterized by high density and diverse urban vitality

UIS Perspective: A Global City Continuously Renewing Through High-Level Concentration

From UIS six-dimensional indicators, New York's urban characteristics are shaped by the interaction of global resources, cultural innovation and vibrant public life. Financial markets, headquarters, universities and research institutions, cultural and artistic assets, and international exchange functions are highly concentrated, supporting the city's global influence. At the same time, everyday urban systems including the subway network, streets, community parks and waterfront renewal continue to shape residents' quality of life. The combination of high-level functions and dense everyday experiences forms one of New York's most distinctive characteristics.



New York: UIS Six-Dimensional Evaluation

Highlight 1 Multi-Dimensional Resources Supporting Global Capacity

New York's global influence is rooted in the concentration of financial, business, innovation and cultural resources. Wall Street and Lower Manhattan have long served as global centers for financial markets and professional services. The United Nations Headquarters, multinational corporations, media organizations, cultural institutions and universities further strengthen New York's role as a global city. The interaction of diverse resources within a dense urban environment enables New York to continuously attract talent, capital, information and innovation.

This resource concentration is clearly reflected in the city's spatial structure. Lower Manhattan's Financial District brings together securities trading, banking, legal services and professional institutions, representing New York's global resource allocation capacity. Universities and research institutions such as Columbia University, New York University and Cornell Tech provide continuous support for innovation and talent development. Broadway, museum clusters, Lincoln Center and diverse neighborhood cultures collectively shape the city's cultural production and global influence.

Together, these spaces and institutions demonstrate that New York's strength comes from the intensive integration of multiple resources. Financial capital, knowledge creation, cultural expression and international exchange continuously converge within the city, supporting New York's performance in the Innovation and Humanism dimensions observed by UIS.

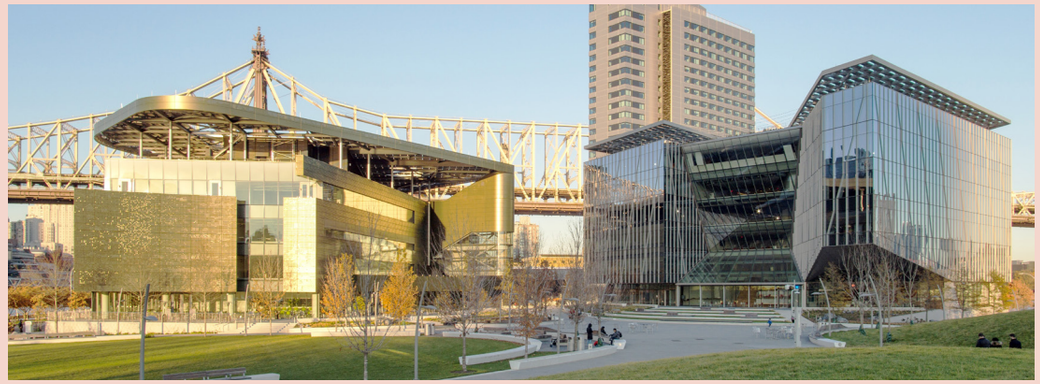
Manhattan Financial District: Concentrating Global Finance and Professional Services



Supported by securities markets, banking, legal services and professional institutions, the district forms a key center through which New York participates in global resource allocation.

University and Research Network: Supporting Knowledge Innovation and Talent Mobility

Universities and research platforms including Columbia University, New York University and Cornell Tech provide continuous support for innovation, entrepreneurship and talent development.



Cultural Resource Clusters: Strengthening Cultural Production and Global Influence



Through the concentration of theaters, museums, arts institutions and public cultural activities, New York creates globally influential environments for cultural production, consumption and exchange.

Highlight 2 Enhancing Livability Through Public Spaces and Urban Renewal

New York's livability is largely reflected in the continuous improvement of public spaces and urban renewal. As a highly developed and built-out city, New York has limited opportunities for large-scale expansion. Instead, the city improves everyday living experiences through street redesign, waterfront regeneration, infrastructure renewal and community park enhancement. Public spaces have therefore become important platforms connecting urban renewal, community life and climate adaptation.

The High Line represents a landmark example of adaptive reuse and urban regeneration. By transforming an abandoned elevated railway into a linear park, the project integrates walking, landscape, art and surrounding development, stimulating the revitalization of Chelsea and adjacent neighborhoods. The pedestrianization of Times Square demonstrates another approach to reallocating street space. By reducing vehicle space and expanding areas for walking, gathering and public activities, the project enhances the public experience within one of the city's busiest commercial districts.

Waterfront regeneration and community park networks also continue to shape New York's everyday urban quality. Waterfront spaces such as Brooklyn Bridge Park and Hudson River Park have transformed former port, industrial and transportation edges into accessible public spaces. Meanwhile, neighborhood parks and recreation facilities provide nearby places for activity and social interaction within dense residential environments. For New York, improvements in urban quality often emerge through these accessible, flexible and frequently used public spaces.

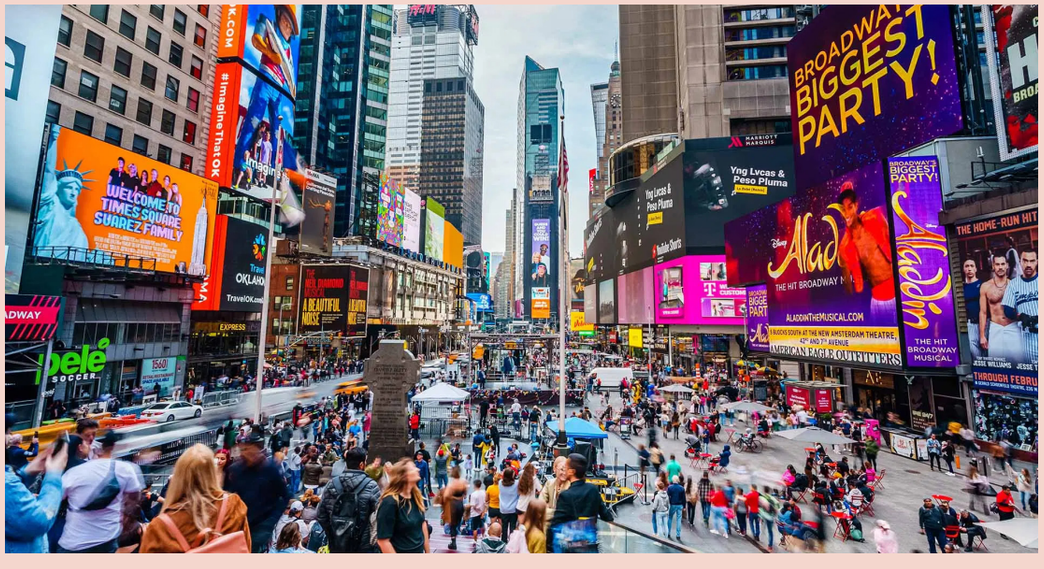
High Line: Revitalizing Urban Areas Through Adaptive Reuse of Infrastructure

By transforming an abandoned elevated railway into a linear park, the project integrates walking, landscape, art and surrounding development, becoming a landmark example of urban regeneration through existing-space renewal.



Times Square Pedestrianization: Improving Public Experience Through Street Reallocation

By converting parts of roadway space into pedestrian and gathering areas, the project improves public activity environments and urban experiences in a high-intensity commercial district.



Waterfront Park Network: Transforming Urban Edges into Public Life Spaces

Through waterfront regeneration projects such as Brooklyn Bridge Park and Hudson River Park, former industrial and transportation edges have been transformed into spaces for recreation, exercise and community activities.



CHAPTER 3

FUTURE OUTLOOK



Future Outlook

The UIS Asia-Pacific Cities Observation demonstrates that there is no single formula for urban development. Cities at different stages of development continue to explore their own balance between people and nature, efficiency and equity, based on their unique historical foundations, spatial conditions and cultural contexts. Through these diverse pathways, cities generate valuable knowledge and experiences.

Urban differences should therefore not be understood simply as a matter of ranking, but as different choices shaped by each city's own conditions. Every city has distinctive strengths and ongoing challenges. Valuable urban practices should not remain limited to individual places; they should be recognized, understood, shared and adapted, allowing knowledge and experience to flow across cities.

From Observation to Governance Action

The value of urban observation lies not only in presenting results, but also in providing insights for governance actions. Through its six-dimensional framework of Innovation, Livability, Aesthetics, Resilience, Humanism and Intelligence, UIS helps cities identify their strengths, challenges and priority areas, transforming comprehensive observation into actionable strategies.

For urban policymakers, UIS provides references for identifying directions for improvement. For researchers, it offers a framework for cross-city comparison and case studies. For international cooperation, it creates a shared language for dialogue around specific urban issues. UIS advances urban observation from simply "identifying differences" toward "understanding challenges and supporting action."

Building an Open and Shared Urban Knowledge System

Looking ahead, UIS will continue to develop its eight product systems and build a more open, diverse and shared urban knowledge ecosystem. Based on the six-dimensional framework, UIS will continuously integrate urban data, case studies and practical experiences to present different cities' development patterns, governance challenges and implementation pathways. Through this process, UIS aims to provide a common foundation for dialogue, exchange and collaboration among cities, while offering continuous knowledge support for global urban governance.