

# Super Typhoon Yagi threatens southern China, Vietnam

September 6 2024

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Super typhoon Yagi, potentially the strongest typhoon to hit the southern coast of China in a decade, moved towards China's island province of Hainan, leaving Hong Kong unscathed.

Southern China's Hainan province evacuated over 400,000 people ahead of the expected landfall on Friday of Super Typhoon Yagi, while tens of

thousands prepared to seek shelter in neighboring Vietnam from what is set to be the strongest storm to hit the region in over a decade.

Yagi killed at least 13 people in the Philippines earlier this week when it was still classified as a [tropical storm](#), triggering floods and landslides on the country's main island of Luzon before strengthening into a [super typhoon](#) over the past few days.

The storm was expected to make landfall in China later on Friday along the coasts of Hainan—a popular holiday destination—and neighboring Guangdong province, the state-run Xinhua news agency said, citing authorities.

The ministry of water resources on Thursday raised its emergency response to flooding in both provinces to the third-highest tier.

"Yagi is likely to be the strongest typhoon to hit China's southern coast since 2014, making flood and prevention work very challenging," Xinhua said, citing a meeting held by flood officials.

Authorities in Hainan have evacuated over 400,000 people on the island, the news agency said, citing local authorities.

Packing [wind speeds](#) of more than 240 kilometers (149 miles) per hour, the typhoon "is equivalent to a Category 4 hurricane", according to NASA Earth Data.

In Hong Kong, a typhoon warning that had been in effect was lowered shortly after noon following heavy rains overnight as Yagi passed within 400 kilometers of the city.

# Super Typhoon Yagi

Path: — Past    - - - Forecast



Source: Joint Typhoon Warning Center

AFP

Map showing the track of Super Typhoon Yagi over South China Sea, as of Sep 6.

Trading at Hong Kong's stock exchange was suspended on Friday, and day schools were closed.

Authorities said five people were injured in the city due to the weather, but damage was limited.

Southern China is frequently hit during the summer and autumn by typhoons that form in the warm oceans east of the Philippines and then travel west.

But [climate change](#) has made tropical storms more unpredictable while increasing their intensity—leading to [heavy rains](#) and violent gusts that cause flash floods and coastal damage, experts say.

After moving through southern China, Yagi will head towards Vietnam, on course to hit the northern and north-central regions around the famed UNESCO heritage site Halong Bay on Saturday.

Tens of thousands of people will be evacuated to safer areas in Hai Phong and Thai Binh provinces on Friday, local authorities said.

"This will be the strongest typhoon (to hit northern Vietnam) in 20 years," said Pham Duc Luan, head of the dyke management authority on Thursday.

More than 457,000 [military personnel](#) have been mobilized by the relief and rescue department of the defense ministry.

Officials have also directed 50,000 fishing vessels carrying 220,000 people to take shelter.

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