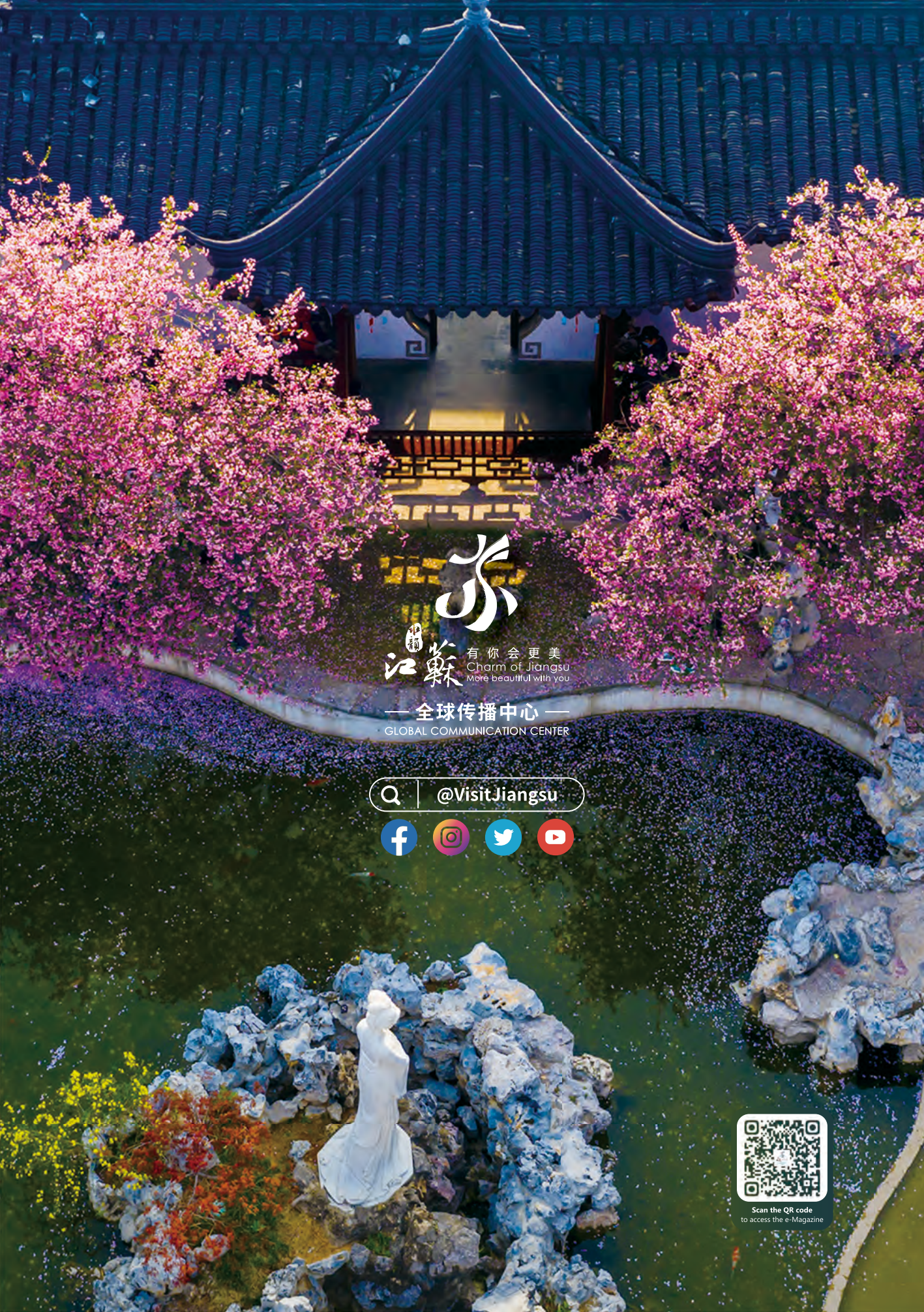




JIANGSU GLIMPSES

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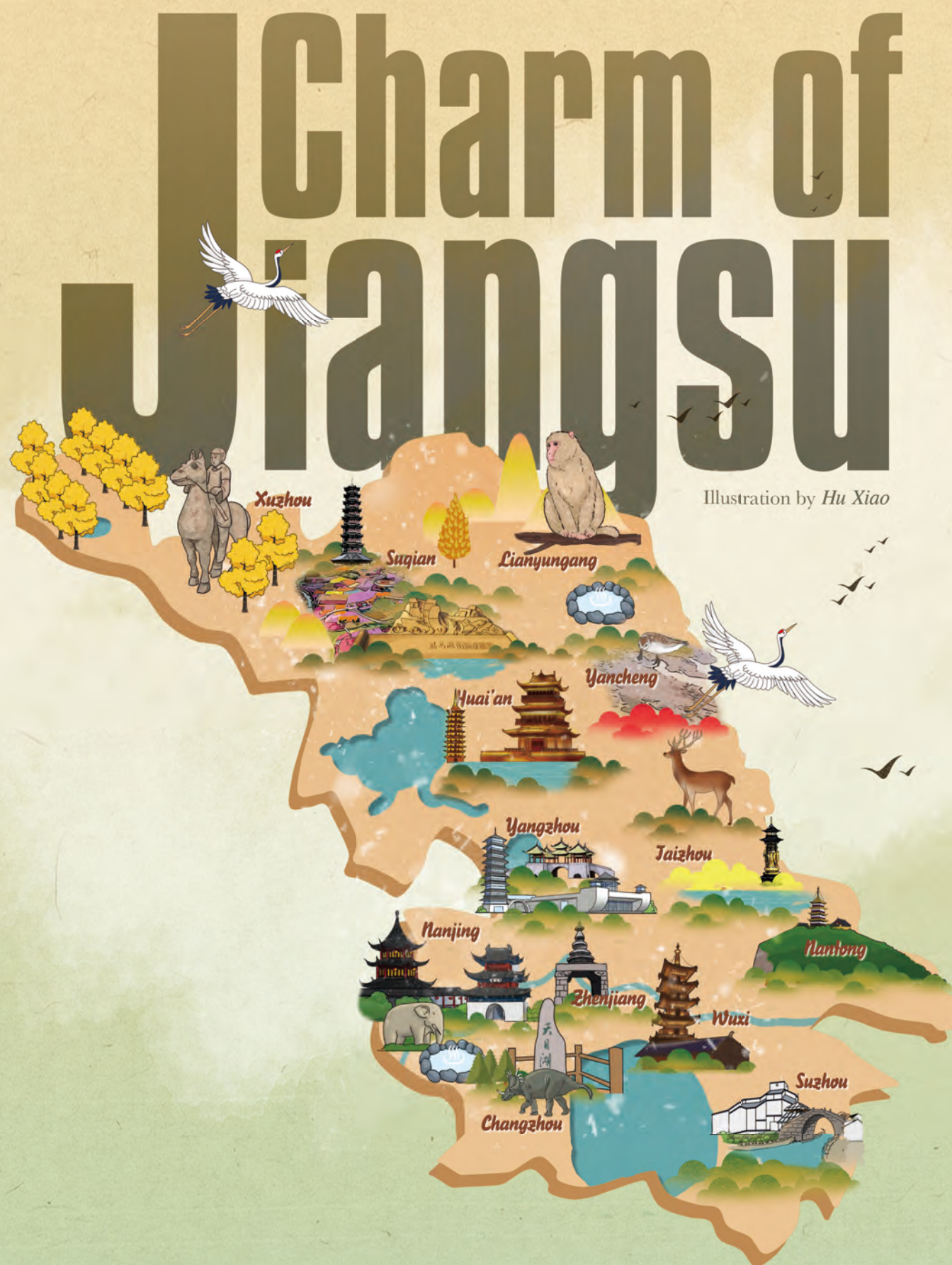


Illustration by Hu Xiao

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Spring in Jiangsu is colorful, and the blooming of flowers is the most worth expecting.

People in Jiangsu begin to explore the wonders of spring at the Plum Blossom Festival. When the first cherry blossom is spotted on the branch, will it take a long time to experience a cherry blossom rain? Winter jasmines, February orchids, cole flowers, Chinese flowering crabapples, apricot blossoms, pear flowers, peach blossoms, tulips, yulan magnolias... Spring falls when the flowers are in full blossom, and Jiangsu turns into a "wonderland of flowers." The flowers bloom like clouds, attracting countless tourists. Everything is in full bloom so that people have the expectation of traveling and the courage to go forward.

Spring would also not be complete in Jiangsu without a handful of fresh vegetables, and in particular the tradition of eating them on the first day of the new season. Each of the 13 cities in Jiangsu has its unique seasonal recipes. In Nanjing, for example, people are fond of edible wild herbs in spring. What impressed me most was a kind of assorted dish that I enjoyed during the Spring Festival holiday. It's made of at least 10 types of vegetables and tofu products, with the hope that everything goes well. A distinctive Jiangsu flavor is added with local greens and water plants.

Jiangsu is a beautiful, dynamic and fertile land abundant in water resources, with an area of 107,200 km². Water area accounts for one sixth of its total area. It is home to important seas, rivers, lakes and springs. It boasts the Yangtze River, the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, vast rivers and lakes, and a dense network of waterways.

Since ancient times, Jiangsu has been famous for its watercourses. Over 1,200 years ago, Jianzhen, a Buddhist monk of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), embarked on the sea voyage eastward to Japan, setting sail from the Grand Canal to the Yangtze River. More than 700 years ago, the Venetian merchant Marco Polo traveled from Italy to the East. He came to Jiangsu via the land and maritime Silk Road routes and wrote the renowned *Travels of Marco Polo*. More than 600 years ago, Zheng He's fleets set sail at Liujiagang, a port where the Yangtze River merges with the sea. The fleets visited Southeast Asia and the Atlantic Ocean and left many historical stories of friendly exchanges throughout the journey.

I am wondering what is your impression of Jiangsu? Its abundant water resources such as rivers, lakes, seas and springs? Or its natural beauty? Or its profound history and rich culture? To attract more tourists to experience the charm of Jiangsu in terms of scenery, taste, humanity and life, "Charm of Jiangsu" Global Communication Center of Jiangsu Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism has invited global friends to design inbound tourism routes for Jiangsu and explore its wonders.

In August 2022, the campaign of collecting "Charm of Jiangsu" Tourism Routes themed "Visit Jiangsu and Discover the Charm of Jiangsu" sent invitations to global friends. After soliciting opinions from netizens, industry experts conducted several rounds of review, and finally released 10 specially designed routes on the Instagram account @visitjiangsu in December. The routes include in-depth experience of the Grand Canal, riverside and coastal tours and leisure tours, offering global netizens a novel experience to explore the charm of Jiangsu.

"Meet Colorful Jiangsu," "Be Neighbor of Sea, Discover Heritages in Waves," "A Trip with Wellness"... these poetic names of the routes offer a glimpse of the picturesque scenery of Jiangnan (areas south of the Yangtze River), mudflats, water towns and vast fields. The 10 routes with different themes show different "characteristics" of the rivers, lakes and seas in Jiangsu, offering an immersive experience to tourists. It not only shows the wisdom and creativity of the designers, but also reflects the beauty of Jiangsu.

Charm of Jiangsu, more beautiful with you.

Charm of Jiangsu

JIANGSU

Glimpses

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On the cover: Yuantouzhu scenic spot of the Taihu Lake in Wuxi

On the back: Mochou Lake Park in Nanjing



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Global View of Charming Jiangsu

World Wetlands Day: The Call of the Wild in Jiangsu!

Feb. 2, 2023 marked the 27th World Wetlands Day, under the theme "It's Time for Wetlands Restoration."

Let's follow the lens of photographers from China and beyond, to have a bird's view of the "kidneys of the Earth" in Jiangsu and feel the interdependence of life.

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WORLD WETLANDS DAY: THE CALL OF THE WILD IN JIANGSU

By Yolanda vom Hagen from Agentur Focus,
Miya Tian, Ju Shenshi and Feng Pingping

Feb. 2, 2023 marked the 27th World Wetlands Day, under the theme "It's Time for Wetlands Restoration." Let's follow the lens of photographers from China and beyond, to have a bird's view of the "kidneys of the Earth" in Jiangsu and feel the interdependence of life.

Wetlands in Jiangsu are world-known. China's Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf (Phase I) were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2019, becoming China's first World Natural Heritage site of coastal wetlands. Here, visitors can easily spot milu deer, red-crowned cranes, and spoon-billed sandpipers in the wild. Local people affectionately call these

three rare wildlife species "three auspicious treasures."

The 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP14) kicked off on Nov. 5, 2022 in China's Wuhan and Switzerland's Geneva. Yancheng, a coastal city in east China's Jiangsu Province, was listed as one of the 43 "International Wetland Cities" worldwide.

Known as the "Oriental Wetland Capital," Yancheng is a vital node of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, one of the world's nine greatest flyways for migratory birds. It is where millions of migratory birds choose to rest, breed and spend winter every year. In Tiaozini Wetland, Yancheng, you can see how the reddish-brown feathers of spoon-billed sandpipers, as rare as giant pandas, are gradually replaced by grey-white feathers which help them to live through the winter.

Apart from coastal wetlands, inland wetlands can also offer equally novel experience to visitors. In autumn and winter, when the dawn-redwood forest and turquoise lake reflect each other in Hongze Lake Wetland Scenic Area in Sihong County, Suqian City, you can enjoy the twists and turns of the waterway by sailing in the reed maze. In spring and autumn, visitors can feel the charm of Jiangnan (areas south of the Yangtze River) at Taihu Lake National Wetland Park in Suzhou City through peach blossoms, green willows, flying birds and growing grasses.

At the end of 2022, I participated in a group photography tour to Yancheng with over 10 celebrated photographers from China Photographers Association, Jiangsu Photographers Association, among others.

In late autumn and early winter, we saw milu deer, red-crowned cranes as well as mudflats and wetlands that stretch thousands of miles. Through the thin mist, I saw milu deer walking in the forests and on the wetlands. I deeply felt the charm of Dafeng, a rare scene in my homeland Germany like a colorful ecological scroll.

Dafeng District in Yancheng, with mudflats covering one-third of its total area, boasts two national nature reserves. In Dafeng Milu National Nature Reserve, milu deer run in groups on mudflats. After over 30 years of protection, the population of milu deer at the reserve has risen from 39 to over 7,000. Currently, the reserve has the world's largest milu population and the most complete gene pool of milu deer. Yancheng National Rare Birds Nature Reserve has become the largest wintering ground for red-crowned cranes. About 600 red-crowned cranes spend winter at the reserve every year.

Yang Guomei, a member of the tour group, is acclaimed as "the first person in Chinese milu deer photography."

In 1986, the British government gifted 39 milu deer to Dafeng Milu National Nature Reserve in the city of Yancheng. Yang witnessed the historic moment. Yang told me that the best time to visit Yeludang was before dawn, and

go further after watching the sunrise so that I could capture pretty pictures.

Yeludang is adjacent to Dafeng Milu National Nature Reserve, where milu deer in herds forage, roost and even swim. Looking up, I could see through the lens common cranes, egrets and other species of birds soaring in the air. At night, the vast starry night highlights the beauty of nature. The region can observe an average of 238 days of dark and starry sky throughout the year. The national automated meteorological observation station is an ideal stargazing site. The Galaxy in summer night and the Orion constellation in winter show clear.



❖ A long-eared owl



❖ Red-crowned cranes



❖ A spoon-billed sandpiper



What impressed me most was the winding intertidal mudflats and extending channels on them forming "tidal tree" landscapes. They look like an eye-catching oil painting, a masterpiece of nature!

It is said that among all the migratory birds, long-eared owls are the most punctual. Every year, they appear a few days around Lidong, or Beginning of Winter, the 19th of the 24 solar terms in the Chinese lunar calendar. After staying for several months, they leave quietly. I set off in the early morning and finally captured the precious pictures of long-eared owls.

Ben Daochun, a member of China Photographers Association, and the winner of China Photography Golden Image Award, also participated in the tour. He told me that over 300 years ago, Kong Shangren, a noted playwright of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) who wrote *The Peach Blossom Fan* was once in charge of controlling flood in Dafeng. "In the early autumn dawn, dense fog overcasts the sail on the wave; the rising tide level with the bank makes the boat moored move." It is a beautiful line depicting Dafeng from the vers-

es by Kong. After the in-depth photography activity in Dafeng, Yancheng City, I think that we have also witnessed the beauty and charm of Jiangsu as Kong did many years ago.

In March, we have celebrated World Wildlife Day. As far as I know, Jiangsu has several wetlands of international importance such as Dafeng Milu National Nature Reserve, Yancheng National Rare Birds Nature Reserve, and Baima Lake Wetland in Huai'an, as well as 28 national wetland parks. Up to now, Jiangsu has more than 2.8 million hectares of wetlands, of which natural wetlands cover more than 1.9 million hectares. As it is getting warmer, varied migratory birds are flying back. At present, be it in Xinjizhou National Wetland Park in Nanjing, Qinhu National Wetland Park in Taizhou, wetlands along the coast of the Yellow Sea in Dafeng, Chishan Lake in Jurong, or wetland parks and protection reserves along the central nodes and key hubs of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, the grass and trees are turning green, and migratory birds are flying, playing and foraging, filling people's hearts with joy.

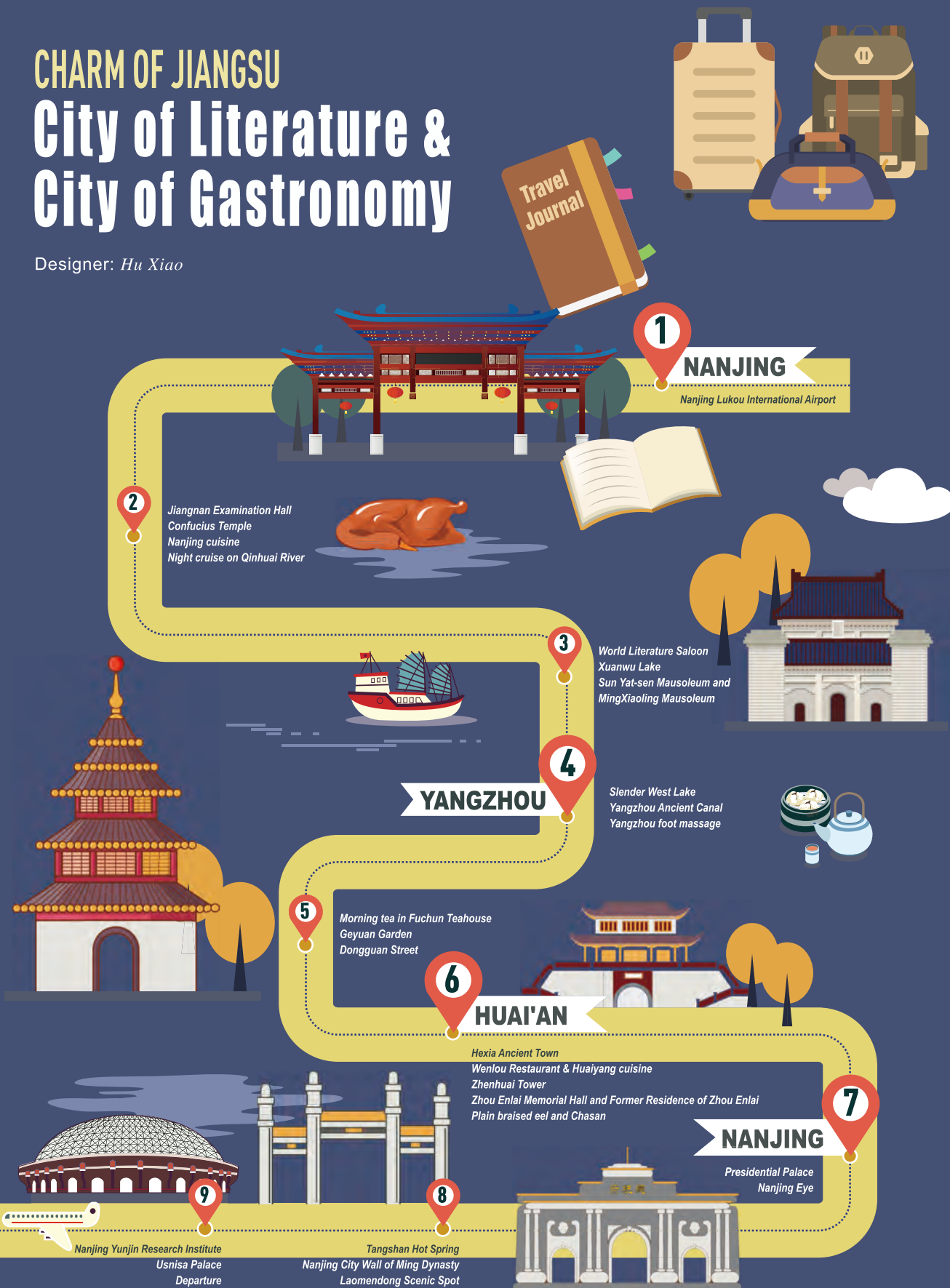


Yolanda

CHARM OF JIANGSU

City of Literature & City of Gastronomy

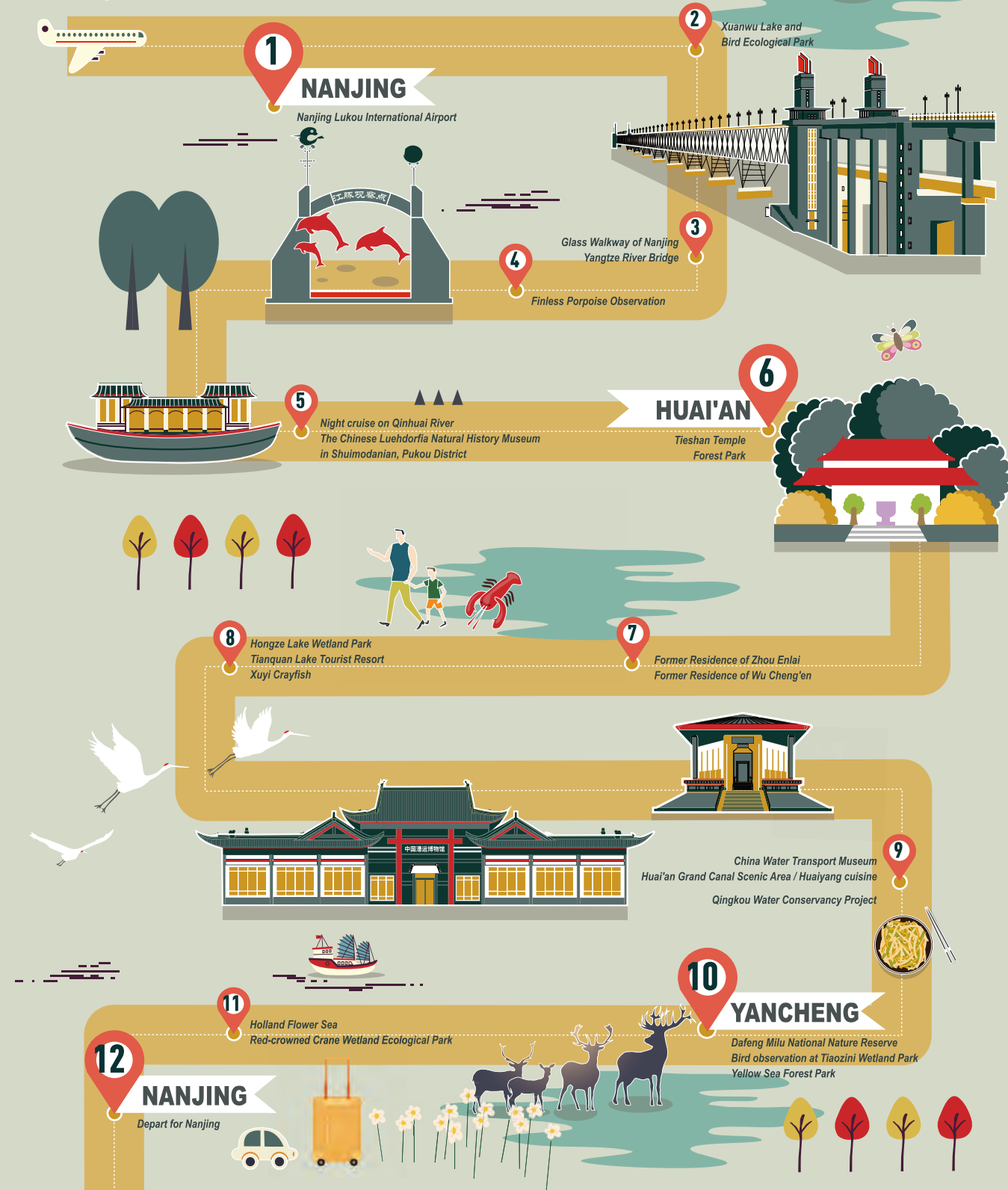
Designer: Hu Xiao



CHARM OF JIANGSU

Beauty of Ecology and Food

Designer: Neva Gao



City of Literature & Cities of Gastronomy

Route designed by *Xie Minyi*
Written by *Geng Chunxiao, Zhu Xiaojuan*
and *Zhang Jiajie*

The route recommended by CITS Hong Kong highlights culinary delights and hot springs. With the theme of rivers, lakes, seas, and springs, the course selects three cities: Nanjing, known as the City of Literature, and Yangzhou and Huai'an, both named as the City of Gastronomy. The travel line is more about a sightseeing tour. It's also a study tour for young students.

City of Literature program is part of the wider Creative Cities Network launched by UNESCO. The network has member cities in seven creative fields: Literature, Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Media Arts, and Music. In 2014, Suzhou was rewarded as City of Crafts and Folk Art. In 2019, Nanjing was designated as City of Literature and Yangzhou City of Gastronomy. In 2021, Huai'an was listed as City of Gastronomy. All the world-known cities of Jiangsu are waiting for you.



D1 Hong Kong-Nanjing

On the first day, we will visit Nanjing, to explore the vicissitudes of the city and learn more about the stories written by poets.

First, we'll visit Jiangnan Gongyuan (Jiangnan Examination Hall), the largest examination hall for imperial civil service examination in ancient China. It is one of the main building clusters in the Confucius Temple area. Confucius Temple where Jiangnan Gongyuan is located is a large-scale complex of ancient buildings going through rise and decline. It is a place to worship and consecrate Confucius, and one of China's four major temples of literature.

Jiangnan Gongyuan and Confucius Temple together contribute to the prosperity on the banks of Qinhuai River. If you want to explore Qinhuai River in dazzling lights and paddling sounds, don't miss a cruise boat on the river at night.

"Children, come out and play with the lanterns! Keep your colorful lantern. All I need is your red cradle." My friend Juanjuan sang me this Nanjing nursing rhythm that children sing at the Lantern Festival when watching lanterns. Juanjuan learnt the song from her mother. Every year during the Lantern Festival, Qinhuai Lantern Festival in Nanjing attracts a large number of tourists to Confucius Temple. Taking children to see and buy lanterns has been a tradition of Nanjing people for many years.

According to Data Report of Travel Consumption during the Spring Festival 2023 released by Tongcheng Travel, Nanjing's Qinhuai Lantern Festival is one of the top ten popular lantern festivals in the Year of the Rabbit. During the Spring Festival, "festivity" has become the keyword vying for most attention in travel. Lanterns, temple fairs and light shows, all the brilliant lights add enjoyment to the Spring Festival for people in Jiangsu.



D2 Nanjing

Literature is the soul of Nanjing, City of Literature. World Literature Saloon in Nanjing is located at the southeast corner at the foot of Jilong Mountain on the range of Purple Mountain. Walking in it, we can see that every design is of ingenuity. The exhibition hall in the main building is divided into three floors, each with a themed exhibition area. Together with another two themed exhibition areas in the courtyard, they fully showcase the idea of design—the inheritance of the ancient capital's cultural charm and innovative use of space.

The profound cultural deposits spanning thousands of years, countless immortal literature works and diversified literary activities witness the close bond between Nanjing and literature.

To reminisce about the elegant demeanor of the six dynasties, we will come to Xuanwu Lake. The lake was a royal garden during the six dynasties and now is a national scenic area at the foot of Purple Mountain. Many literati have composed poems here.

In the afternoon, we will visit Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum and Ming Xiaoling Mausoleum.

Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum is the mausoleum of Sun Yat-sen, a great forerunner of China's democratic revolution. The memorial archway at the mausoleum is engraved with two Chinese characters "Bo Ai," meaning universal love, which reminds me of the fact that Nanjing is a City of Universal Love.

In Ming Xiaoling Mausoleum rest Zhu Yuanzhang, the founder of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), and Empress Ma. Built in 1381, the magnificent mausoleum topping all in the Ming Dynasty, epitomized the highest achievement of architecture and stone carving art in the early Ming Dynasty. In 2003, it was designated by UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage Site.



D3 Nanjing–Yangzhou

As Li Bai (701-762), a poet in the Tang Dynasty wrote, "Sailing to Yangzhou in the lunar March when blossoms curl like smoke on the river." Many people are expecting spring in Yangzhou. It is the charm of Yangzhou that has made generations of literary giants reluctant to leave.

Our first stop in Yangzhou will be Slender West Lake in the northwest suburbs of the city. In 2014, it was inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List.

Apart from the world-known Yangzhou fried rice, Huaiyang cuisine has many other dishes, including stewed crab meatballs, braised shredded chicken with ham and dried tofu, plain braised eel and squirrel-like mandarin fish, etc. One of the most remarkable features of Huaiyang cuisine is exquisite cutting skills. The dishes look delicate and taste mellow. Huaiyang cuisine emphasizes duration. Care is taken to preserve the original flavor of the ingredients, with main ingredients of aquatic products.

In the afternoon, we will visit the Yangzhou section of the Grand Canal. It is the oldest section of the Grand Canal. The canal in Yangzhou today overlaps with most of the ancient Hangou route dug more than 2,000 years ago, and it is highly consistent with the canal evacuated under the order of Emperor Yang in the Sui Dynasty (581-618). Among them, the Yangzhou urban section of the ancient canal is about 30 km, from Guazhou to Wantou, forming Sanwan, which literally means three bays. This section has numerous historical relics and cultural sites.

Do you know "three knives" in Yangzhou? They refer to the



blades commonly found in a basic toolkit: a kitchen knife, a pedicure blade and a shaving razor. The pedicure technique in Yangzhou is a traditional Chinese medicine diagnosis and treatment method. Yangzhou people who live along the water fully showcase their meticulousness, turning a small pedicure knife into a practical art.

D4 Yangzhou – Huai'an

There is a saying in Yangzhou, "Skin wraps water in the morning, and water wraps skin in the evening," that is, to eat steamed buns and tea in the morning and enjoy time in bathhouses in the evening. The spiritual life of the locals in Yangzhou, the City of Gastronomy, starts with dim sum in Fuchun Teahouse. The teahouse mainly offers Huaiyang fine snacks, stressing color, aroma and flavor equally. Stewed meatballs and braised shredded chicken

with ham and dried tofu are Yangzhou flavors that you can't miss.

Next, we are going to Geyuan Garden to see the four-season rockeries. Chun (Spring) Hill is decorated with bamboo and stalagmites as if breaking the ground; Xia (Summer) Hill was built with Taihu Lake stones; Qiu (Autumn) Hill is composed of Huangshi stones, a unique kind of stone in Anhui Province; Dong (Winter) Hill was created by Xuancheng stones from Anhui Province. The design is original, incorporating four seasons into the garden.

Dongguan Street next to Geyuan Garden is a historical street with a total length of more than 1,000 m. The street is brimming with shops, bustling with merchants.

Huai'an, another City of Gastronomy, is not only a famous historical and cultural city, but also one of the main regions of source and inheritance of Huaiyang cuisine.

Our first destination in Huai'an will be Hexia Ancient Town. The ancient town dates back 2,500 years. The century-aged Wenlou Restaurant in the ancient town offers authentic Huaiyang cuisine, and is renowned for its crab-roe soup buns.



D5 Huai'an – Nanjing

On the second day in Huai'an, we will visit Zhen-huai Tower in the city center. With a history of over 1,000 years, it stands towering and magnificent as a landmark of ancient and civilized city of Huai'an.

Huai'an is the hometown of late Premier Zhou Enlai. We will come to the Zhou Enlai Memorial Hall and the Former Residence of Zhou Enlai to pay respects. The architecture of the Zhou Enlai Memorial Hall is solemn. The Former Residence of Zhou Enlai is a patriotic education base for elementary and secondary schools in China and one of the 100 national "red tourism" classic scenic spots.

In Huai'an, you must try such delicacies as plain braised eel, Qingong meatball and chasan. Plain braised eel is one of the most famous dishes of Huaiyang cuisine. Qingong meatball is a traditional snack in Huai'an. People often say that the meatballs are so elastic that they can be played as ping-pong balls.

Chasan, a snack resembling twisty deep-fried noodles, is also a special snack in Huai'an. It is made from egg, oil and white flour, rolled into a dough, stretched into thick and thin round strips and deep-fried until golden. It is crispy and tasty.

After tasting the world-class Huaiyang cuisine, we will depart for Nanjing and visit Presidential Palace in the afternoon. Presidential Palace is a sprawling complex housing a myriad of architectural styles, including both classical Jiangnan-style gardens and architectural remains during the period of "West Learning Spreading to the East."

We will go to Nanjing Eye at dusk to see Hexi New Town in the fantastic lights. As the first sightseeing pedestrian bridge on the Yangtze River, Nanjing Eye links the Nanjing International Youth Culture Center (NIYCC) and Jiangxinzhou Youth Forest Park. From afar, the bridge's steel cables seem to flutter upward, like the strings of a harp, while pedestrians walking through it are like beating notes. It is a new landmark and attraction in Nanjing.



D6 Nanjing

After days of traveling, we need to relax in warm springs. Of many hot springs in Nanjing, Tangshan Hot Spring is the best-known.

After relaxing, we will visit Zhonghua Gate and Laomendong. Zhonghua Gate is the second largest castle-style city gate among the 13 gates of the inner-city wall of the Ming Dynasty in Nanjing. It is a well-preserved ancient barbican with a complicated structure.

Laomendong is located in the east of Zhonghua Gate; that's why it got the name, which in Chinese means east of the ancient gate. Also called the East Zhonghua Gate Historical and Culture Block, Laomendong gathers traditional residences in Nanjing, and since ancient times, it has been a place for Jiangnan merchants trying their luck, men of letters lingering, and royal families living.

D7 Nanjing – Hong Kong

Nanjing Cloud Brocade (Yunjin) is an icon of the city. On the last day of the trip, we will appreciate up-close the brocade as beautiful as rosy clouds and the



skillfulness of the weavers.

The first stop will be Nanjing Yunjin Research Institute. It is the first research institute of arts and crafts since the establishment of the People's Republic of China. It is professional in the research, development and production of Yunjin, and is also the main unit declaring the intangible cultural heritage to UNESCO.

Our last destination will be the long-awaited Usnisa Palace at Niushou Mountain. It is a deep pit building. Altogether there are nine floors inside the palace, with six floors underground and three above the ground. The design is exquisite enough to take our breath away. Strolling on the beautiful Niushou Mountain and listening to the sound of bells and drums, we will be sure to end our trip with satisfaction.

Beauty of ECOLOGY AND FOOD

Route designed by *Wu Haoshu*

Written by *Kelsey Tang, Wendy Wang and Guo Manru*

Rather than choosing some internet-famous attractions, the route recommended by OCEANIA TRIP ONLINE PTY LTD focuses on the niche sites that explore the water culture of northern Jiangsu. It also combines viewing ecological sites and tasting local cuisine to make tourists' travel experience interesting and interactive.

Jiangsu is the only province in China with large rivers, lakes, and seas. It grows with and thrives on water, and is beautiful because of water. At the same time, it is also a province with the characteristics of both northern and southern China. If you are used to the Jiangnan style pavilions, walls and tiles, this time, let's start from Nanjing and go all the way north to Huai'an Grand Canal Scenic Belt, Huaiyang Cuisine Cultural Museum, and Chinese Milu Park, etc. During the trip, we will fully enjoy the ecological scenery, authentic food and the unique charm of Jiangsu.

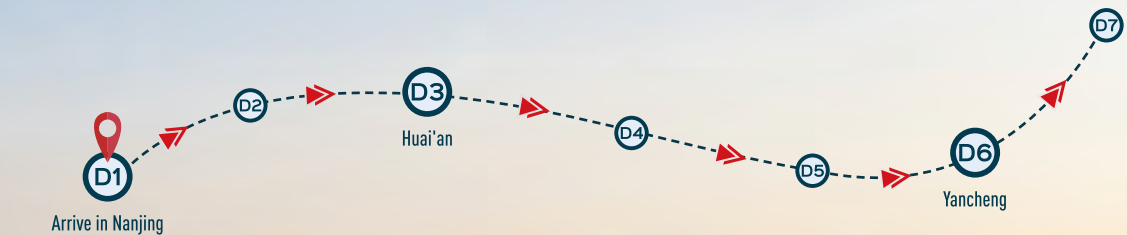
D1-2 Nanjing

We will first visit Xuanwu Lake, a national-level scenic spot at the foot of Purple Mountain. The Bird Ecological Park located in Lingzhou, Xuanwu Lake has Peacock Garden, Ostrich Garden, Swan Lake, Pigeon Square, Bird Science Museum, etc. It is very suitable for children and parents to visit together.

Then we will come to the Yangtze River Bridge. In Nanbao Park under the bridge, there is a semi-curved glass path. The novelty of the path is in stark contrast to the solidity and simplicity of the Yangtze River Bridge. When the night falls, the glass path in the circular landscape is in full bloom, like an ice wheel and jade ring, embedded under the majestic Yangtze River Bridge, showing the beautiful and splendid new night view of the riverside.

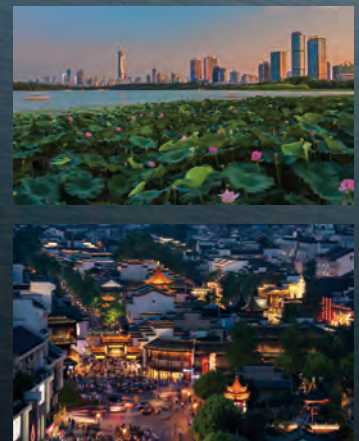
Now that you have come to the Yangtze River, you must not miss the finless porpoise which is called the "smiling angel." The Yangtze finless porpoise is one of the representative species in Nanjing. As the only city in the country where the Yangtze finless porpoise can be spotted regularly in city center, Nanjing is one of the best destinations for viewing finless porpoises. According to statistics, more than 60 Yangtze finless porpoises live in Nanjing. If you are lucky enough, you can see finless porpoises frolicking in waters.

Nanjing is also the area with the largest number of *Luehdorfia chinensis*, or Chinese *Luehdorfia*, a rare butterfly species under state-level protection in China. The Chinese *Luehdorfia* Natural History Museum, located in Shuimoda-



nian, Pukou District, is worth visiting. This is the first butterfly museum in China, exhibiting specimens of about 400 butterfly species from all over the world. On the third floor, there is a science and education experience room of the *Luehdorfia chinensis*, presenting the *Luehdorfia chinensis* in the form of anthropomorphic 3D animation. Through "dialogues" between human beings and butterflies, it aims to raise people's awareness in environmental protection.

Nanjing was the ancient capital of six dynasties and the metropolis of ten dynasties. Watching the night view, tasting snacks and taking a night cruise on the Qinhuai River are the best choices to experience Nanjing's rich history and profound culture. Duck blood vermicelli soup, sweet scented osmanthus taro, red beans and glutinous rice balls in fermented rice wine... the brightly lit streets lure tourists by various kinds of Nanjing snacks. You must not miss them if you are food lovers.



D3 Huai'an

From Nanjing all the way north, we will go to Xuyi County of Huai'an City to visit Tieshan Temple Forest Park. The natural and cultural landscapes in the park are quite distinctive. You can not only appreciate the unique natural scenery, but also explore the mysteries of science and feel the richness of history and culture. It is an excellent place for ecological sightseeing, astronomical science popularization, delicacies, and health vacation.

Not far from Tieshan Temple National Forest Park is Tianquan Lake Tourist Resort. Tianquan Lake is an extremely large mountain lake in northern Jiangsu. It is shaped like a crown and spread out like five fingers. "Forest on Water" is a unique landscape here. In the quiet lake water, cypresses are red and yellow, with beautiful shapes, either simple and elegant, or solemn and dignified. The pleasant climate, lush vegetation, and rich aquatic products make it a natural resort for health care, retirement, and vacation.

In addition to enjoying the scenery, you should also try the local specialties. When it comes to Huai'an, the first thing that comes to mind must be Xuyi crayfish. In addition to crayfish, there is another famous dish near Hongze Lake, which is live fish potstickers from Xuyi. The freshly caught fish is boiled in clear lake water, and at the same time, some batter is added, and a layer of thin cakes is pasted around the middle of the pot. When you remove the lid of the pan, the fragrance of the fresh fish and potstickers will hit you.



D4 Huai'an

We will head to Hongze Lake, the fourth largest freshwater lake in China, to visit the ancient weir scenic area. The scenic spot mainly includes Hongze Lake Embankment, Shuifu City, Fish-



erman's Bay and other tourist areas. It is a comprehensive ecological cultural tourism scenic spot integrating cultural experience, health care and forest exploration. Among them, the Hongze Lake Embankment is one of the ancient water conservancy projects. With a history of more than 1,800 years, it is a world cultural heritage site.

In the afternoon, we will visit the Former Residence of Zhou Enlai and Zhou Enlai Memorial Hall, experiencing the footprints and glorious beliefs of the great Chinese leader.

Then we will go to the Former Residence of Wu Cheng'en. He was the author of the literary classic *Journey to the West*. The residence is located in the northwest of Huai'an City, backed by the Li Canal.

D5 Huai'an

On the last day in Huai'an, we will experience the water transport culture and Huaiyang cuisine. Historically, the Qingkou Water Conservancy was where the Yellow River, the Huaihe River and the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal met. It is also one of the most

scientific and technological water conservancy projects on the Grand Canal and was listed as a world cultural heritage site by UNESCO in 2014.

Next, we will go to Huai'an Grand Canal Scenic Belt. As an important hub of water transportation, Huai'an has occupied an important position since ancient times, especially this "water overpass," which realizes the intersection of the Huaihe River waterway and the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal. It can not only satisfy the normal passage of the canal, but also ensure the smooth passage of the Huaihe River into the sea, pushing canal water conservancy technology to a new level.

As the "capital of canals," Huai'an has built the Water-Transport Museum to display the water transport culture. The site of the Governor's Office of Water Transport in Huai'an was one of the major archaeological discoveries in China in 2002. The Water-Transport Museum was built



to integrate with the site of the Governor's Office of Water Transport to fully demonstrate the historical sites and history of water transport to the world.

Huai'an plain braised eel, steamed shad, crab meat ball, thousand-layer oil cake... After experiencing the water transport culture of Huai'an, our itinerary will end with authentic Huaiyang cuisine. Walking into Huaiyang Cuisine Cultural Museum, you can see the exquisite models and precious objects of famous Huaiyang cuisine.

D6

Yancheng



The next station will be Yancheng. The Chinese Milu Park, located in the Dafeng Milu National Nature Reserve, has a beautiful natural ecological environment. So far, the population of the species in the reserve accounts for more than 70% of world's total, making it the largest milu reserve in the world, with the world's largest wild milu population and gene pool.

Next, we will visit Yellow Sea Forest Park, Dongtai. The park is located in the Yellow Sea Wetland, a world natural heritage site in Yancheng, Jiangsu Province. It has the largest plain forest in East China and is a rare unpolluted seaside resort on the west coast of the Pacific Ocean recognized by UNESCO. The good forest and vegetation environment here has greatly guaranteed the

biodiversity.

Remember the cute spoon-billed sandpiper that was popular on the Internet before? Every winter, the Tiaozini Coastal Wetland Park nearby the Yellow Sea becomes the most important stop-over for spoon-billed sandpipers. The wetland is located in Dongtai, Yancheng. It is the first world natural heritage core area featuring coastal wetland in China. It's also the central node of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, the world's greatest flyway for migratory birds. So far, 410 species of birds have been spotted here, 12 of which are classified as globally critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of threatened species. The wetland is known as an "international airport for birds."

D7

Yancheng

The red-crowned crane is among the rarest cranes in the world, with around only 2,000 living in the wild. On the second day of our trip in Yancheng, we will first visit the Red-crowned Crane Wetland Ecological Park. This is the largest wintering ground for red-crowned cranes in the world, one of the largest tidal wetland reserves in China, and also an important breeding

ground for the internationally endangered species of black-beaked gull. Every winter, there are about 800 red-crowned cranes overwintering here. The scene is very spectacular and frequently attracts photographers and bird lovers from afar.

After appreciating the natural ecology of the wetland, let's experience the infinite romance of the flower sea together. Holland Flower Sea is located in Dafeng District, Yancheng City. There are more than 300 varieties and 30 million tulips planted in

the scenic area, which has the reputation of the first flower sea of tulips in China.

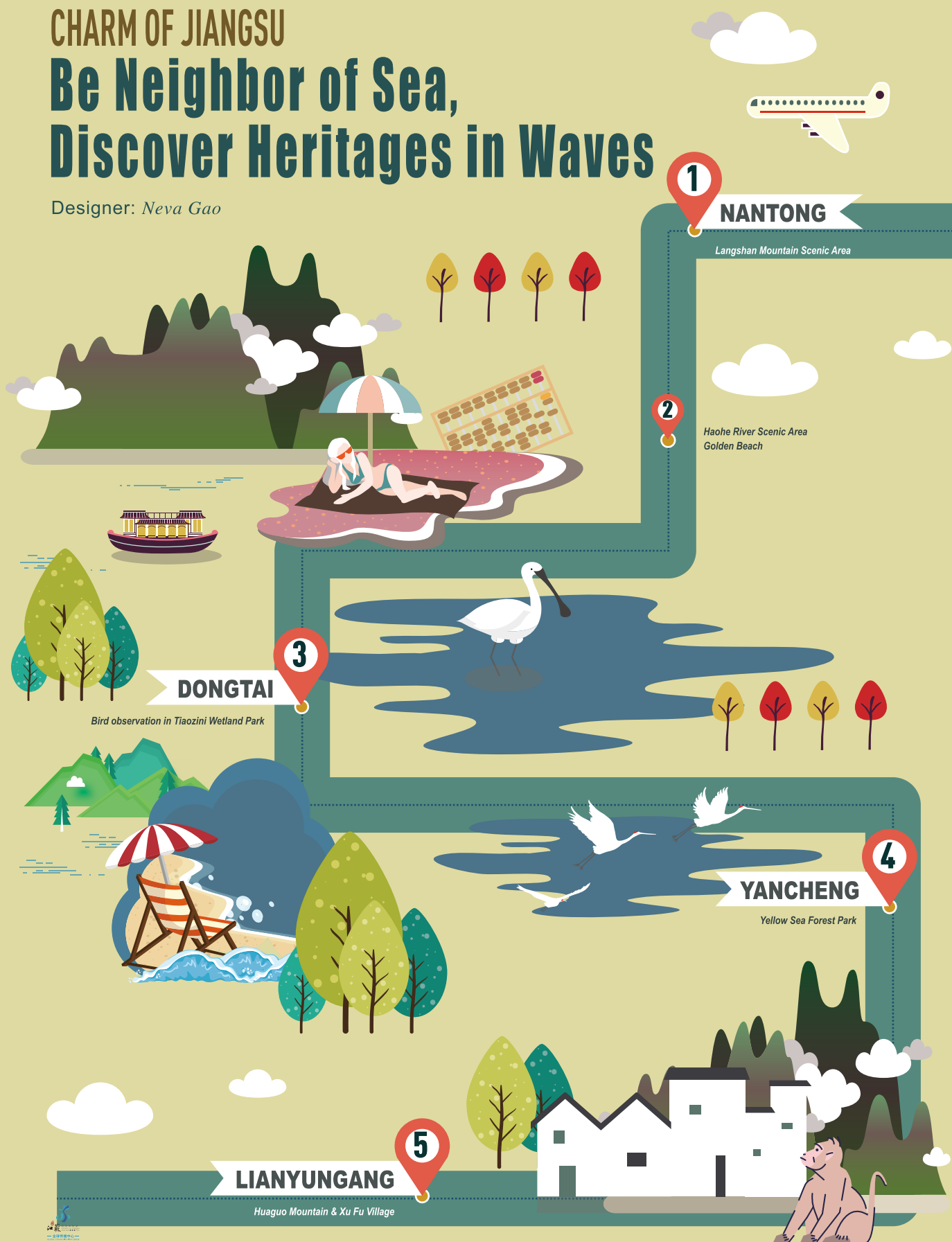
In addition to tulips, lilies, roses, lotuses, sunflowers and other flowers bloom all year round. Decorated with unique architectural complexes, exotic cultural performances, immersive and interactive drama, rich and colorful wedding culture, Holland Flower Sea is becoming a fascinating park with the theme of love. Our trip, lovely and interesting, will come to a perfect end here.



CHARM OF JIANGSU

Be Neighbor of Sea, Discover Heritages in Waves

Designer: *Neva Gao*



CHARM OF JIANGSU

Meet Colorful Jiangsu

Designer: *Neva Gao*



Be Neighbor with Sea, Find Heritage Site with Waves

Route designed by *Cao Yang*

Written by *Wang Yang, Fang Fei* and *Zhang Jiajie*

Jiangsu thrives by sea. Starting from China's Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf (Phase I), a World Natural Heritage site, the travel line recommended by Nanjing Zhongbeiyouhao International Travel Service Co., Ltd. crosses coastal cities such as Yancheng, Nantong and Lianyungang, highlighting openness and inclusiveness of Jiangsu.

At the 43rd meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in 2019, China's Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf (Phase I) was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This is China's 54th World Heritage Site, which brought this unknown area into the public.

Jiangsu Province has a coastline of over 900 km. In this vast area leading to the sea, there is a network of rivers and lakes. It is a land of fish and rice rich in products, the origin of sea salt, and a paradise for migratory birds.

Since the time of Qinshihuang, the first emperor of a united China, Jiangsu has been the east gate of the Chinese mainland. It faces Japan and South Korea across the sea. In recent years, with the opening of Lianyungang-Xuzhou Railway, Qingdao-Yancheng Railway, Yancheng-Nantong Railway, Shanghai-Nantong Railway and Lianyungang-Huai'an-Yangzhou-Zhenjiang Railway, the transportation network leading to the sea is more convenient and faster. And our journey will start slowly along this coastline.



D1-2 Nantong

Nantong is located in the central part of Jiangsu Province, with beautiful seascape and rich seafood. In history, the famous monk Jianzhen of China's Tang Dynasty (618-907) passed through Nantong on his eastward journey, which also laid the foundation for frequent trade exchanges with Japan in the future.

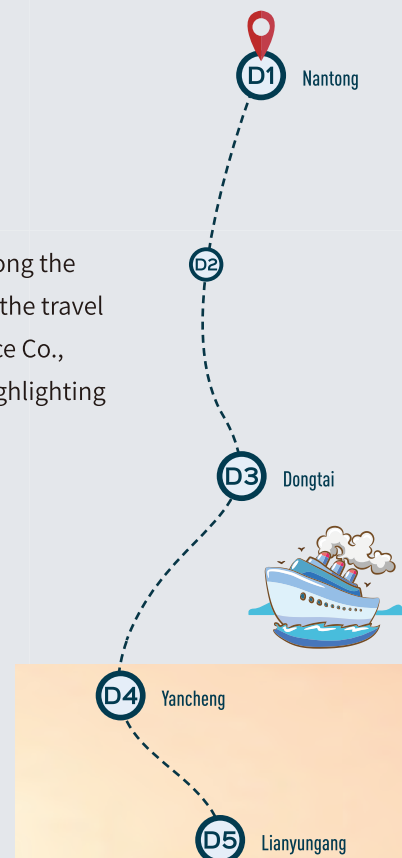
In the city center of Nantong, there are many moats that connect to the Yangtze River, so that various materials such as grain transported along the Yangtze River can reach the city center directly. Therefore, Nantong has been a place of abundant food and clothing since ancient times.

In addition to well-developed commerce, Nantong also boasts rich culture. In the Langshan Mountain Scenic Area, there are



Buddhist buildings all over the peaks covered with green trees, and you can look at the Yangtze River from the top of the mountain. In the Haohe River Scenic Area, you can take a cruise at night, watch the moat that has been preserved to this day, and enjoy the bright lights of thousands of families along the coast.

The Golden Beach, which is about 100 km away from the urban area of Nantong City, is the first place in Jiangsu Province to see the sunrise. You can feel the most beautiful moment when the sea is dyed golden. In addition, after low tide, you can go barefoot on the beach, catch clams washed up on the beach, and enjoy an "ocean disco."



D3 Dongtai

Not far from Nantong, and next to the Yellow Sea, is Dongtai, which has been rich in sea salt since ancient times. Here, the vast tidal flats are a paradise for birds. Tiaozini Wetland is part of the world heritage site Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf (Phase I), the first world natural heritage site in Jiangsu Province. You can enjoy bird-watching trips with binoculars and camera lenses on the beach.

D4 Yancheng

Yancheng (literally means "salt city") owns the largest land area and the second largest population in Jiangsu Province. The city named after salt, has a 2,000-year history of salt production from sea salt.

The Yancheng Nature Reserve along the coast of the Yellow Sea is the largest coastal protection area in China. It is an important habitat for red-crowned cranes, black-beaked gulls, milu deer and other animals. Especially every year, more than 800 red-crowned cranes fly here to spend winter, making it the largest wintering place in the world.

D5

Lianyungang

Lianyungang City in northeastern Jiangsu Province is situated in the middle of China's thousands of miles of coastline, and faces South Korea and Japan across the sea to the east. It is one of the first 14 coastal open cities in China. Emperor Qinshihuang regarded Lianyungang as the easternmost gateway to the outside world in the Chinese mainland. In the city, there is an "East Qin Door" relic.

Lianyungang is also the hometown of Xu Fu in the Qin Dynasty (221-207BC), said to be the "first Chinese Ambassador to Japan." Next, we are going to Xu Fu Village.

Due to the record about the birthplace of Monkey King in the Chinese classical fiction *Journey to the West*, Huaguo Mountain has become one of the most popular scenic spots in Lianyungang. It is described in *Journey to the West* that the big rock on the top of the mountain gave birth to Monkey King. Today, there are many monkeys on the mountain, maybe they are all descendants of Monkey King.

Meet Colorful Jiangsu



Route designed by *Ma Hengjun*

Written by *Tang Jing, Jiang Qiuchen and Zhang Jiajie*

Under the theme of "Rivers, Lakes, Seas, and Springs," the travel route recommended by Taizhou Feilu International Travel Agency Co., Ltd. takes tourists to attractions such as Qianduo Cole Flower Scenic Area, Slender West Lake, and Plum Garden, where they can feel the charm of Jiangsu through viewing flowers, tasting cuisines and listening to local folk stories. Tourists will also visit some World Natural Heritage sites and World Cultural Heritage sites, as well as cities of gastronomy in the province.

Five of the nine "Cities of Gastronomy" recognized by UNESCO are in China, including Yangzhou, a city in Jiangnan (areas south of the Yangtze River) with a history of thousands of years. China's Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf (Phase I) were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2019 and became the 14th world natural heritage site in China, presenting wetlands in Yancheng to the world. Yangzhou's Slender West Lake, one of the "China Grand Canal" heritage sites, was inscribed on the World Cultural Heritage List in 2014. The Qianduo Cole Flower Scenic Area in Xinghua, Taizhou, is a globally important agricultural heritage site recognized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Let's explore the charm of World Natural Heritage sites and World Cultural Heritage sites during this four-day journey!



D1 Yangzhou

We will come to Yangzhou, a beautiful "water city" in Jiangsu. In the morning, we will visit the Slender West Lake Scenic Spot, a World Cultural Heritage site. It is an important section of the Grand Canal, and the core part of Shu-gang-Slender West Lake National Scenic Spot. The graceful and winding lake connects several famous buildings including Wuting Bridge, White Tower, and Ershisi Bridge.

In the afternoon, we will go to Daming Temple. In the temple, there is the Jianzhen Memorial Hall, which symbolizes the Sino-Japanese friendship, and a spring which is called "the Fifth Spring in China," as well as the Pingshan Hall built by Ouyang Xiu when he was the governor of Yangzhou.



Then we will visit China Grand Canal Museum. Located in the Sanwan Scenic Spot in Yangzhou, the museum covers a total area of 200 mu (over 133,333 m²), with a total construction area of about 79,000 m². It is a thematic museum integrating the collection, display, research and education of canal cultural relics. It takes into consideration leisure, tourism and foreign exchanges. The landmark museum is part of the construction project of the Grand Canal National Cultural Park.

The museum aims to share "the beautiful life brought by the Grand Canal." There are two main exhibition areas, "The Grand Canal—a World Cultural Heritage Site in China" and "Born out of Luck—Four Impressions on the Grand Canal Street", as well as nine other exhibition areas with different themes, including "Boats on the Grand Canal," "Seeking Fun in the Canal Wetland," and "Water Conservancy Governor of Ming Dynasty—Lost in the Grand Canal." With both traditional and modern tools, the museum shows the history, culture, ecology, science and technology of the Grand Canal in a diversified, all-time and all-around way. Thus, the museum is known as an "encyclopedia" of China's Grand Canal.

TIPS

- Specialties:** Yangzhou fried rice, thousand-layer cake, three diced buns, shaomai stuffed with green vegetables, boiled tofu strips, pork balls, Wensi tofu soup, salted goose, lotus root flour balls;
- Souvenirs:** Xie Fuchun Chinese beauty makeup, Yangzhou Three Knives

D2 Dongtai

We will go to Dongtai. After arriving, the first stop is a World Natural Heritage Site, Tiaozini Wetland on the coast of China's Yellow Sea. As the tide rises and recedes, tourists are reluctant to leave.

After lunch, we will visit the Yellow Sea National Forest Park, the largest plain forest in East China. The forest park is a green oxygen bar that achieves harmony between human and nature.

After dinner, we will enjoy the large fairyland reality show *Goddess Marriage*, which tells a legendary love story between Dong Yong and the Seventh Immortal Maiden with natural beauty, love culture, digital technology and other means. It turns an ancient town into a fairyland.

Pavilions, rivers and plants in the Dong Yong and the Seventh Immortal Maiden Cultural Park are transformed into a natural waterfront stage and a 3D stage in the air. The show contains the light show, wire show, net screen, water screen, lantern boat, singing and dancing performance, presenting a wonderland to the audience.



TIPS

- Specialties:** fish soup noodles, yellow mud snail, Hougang dried tofu, Xiaozao broad bean, Xu River pig head meat, roast suckling pig, fried sliced eel, clam on sizzling iron plate;
- Souvenirs:** Fu'an Crispy Cake, Shrimp Sauce

D3 Xinghua, Jiangyan and Taizhou City Center

In the flourishing spring, we will head to Xinghua of Taizhou. After arriving, we will enjoy the cole flowers at Qianduo scenic spot, one of the four largest flower seas in the world. We will take a cruise ship to shuttle between raised fields and smell the fragrance of cole flowers. Standing on the top of the 20-meter-high sight-seeing observatory, you can see the golden cole flowers everywhere, which form a unique natural landscape.

After lunch, we will go to Qintong and visit Qintong Ancient Town, a national-level historical and cultural water town. You can visit the ancient locust trees of

the Tang Dynasty (618-907), the ancient camellia trees of the Song Dynasty (960-1279), former residences of academicians, and the ancient locust trees in temples.

Then we will visit the Plum Garden, the former residence of the famous Peking Opera master Mei Lanfang. The Plum Garden is located on the Phoenix Pier in downtown Taizhou. It's surrounded by water on three sides and shaded by trees and elegant scenery.

At night, we will take a boat on the Fengcheng River to enjoy the light show and experience the dreamy water style. You can enjoy Kunqu Opera *The Peach Blossom Fan* along the way, and appreciate the folk customs of old Taizhou and the charm of Jiangsu!

D4 Taizhou

On the last day, let's finish the pleasant journey after having morning tea in Taizhou. As the ancient poem says, "Sailing to Yangzhou in the lunar March when blossoms curl like smoke on the river," this inbound trip to Jiangsu will take you to appreciate the poetic scenery of spring, and help you feel the recovery of everything and enjoy the beautiful scenery during the warm spring. Slender West Lake, Tiaozini Wetland, the Yellow Sea Forest Park, and "the Fifth Spring in China" in the Daming Temple all show the charm of Jiangsu; Passing through the cole flowers at Qianduo scenic spot, one of the four largest flower seas in the world, listening to the dreamlike story of *Goddess Marriage...* May you enjoy this wonderful journey, and hope all you meet are surprises!

TIPS

Specialties: braised shredded chicken with ham and dried tofu, steamed buns stuffed with crab roe, eight delicacies of Qinh Lake;

Souvenirs: Huangqiao sesame pancake, Jingjiang preserved pork, Fengcheng River cultural and creative products

CHARM OF JIANGSU

Water Land with Zen Sense in Hustle and Bustle

Designer: Neva Gao



CHARM OF JIANGSU

Canal Charm in Jiangnan Area

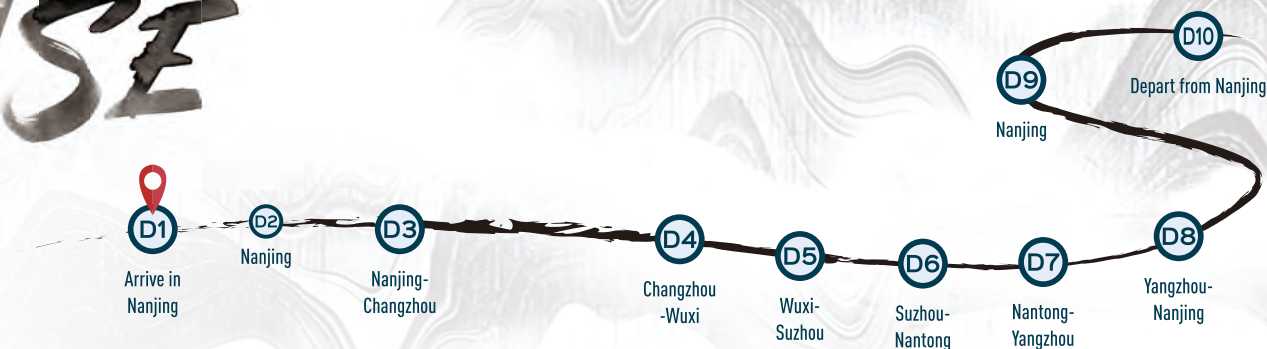
Designer: Neva Gao



Water Towns with ZEN SENSE in Hustle and Bustle

Route designed by *Wang Chunxue*

Written by *Guo Manru, Samantha* and *Wang Chao*



The travel route recommended by Changzhou Guangda International Travel Agency Co., Ltd., which lasts for ten days and covers six cities including Nanjing, Changzhou, Wuxi, Suzhou, Nantong, and Yangzhou, offers foreign tourists full access to the charm of Jiangsu through a panoramic display of the province's landscape, culture, food, and accommodation.

When traveling in Jiangsu, you can hardly stay away from water. The Yangtze River running for thousands of miles, the Grand Canal winding for thousands of years, the blue waves of Taihu Lake, and the magnificence of the Yellow Sea... all show the charm of Jiangsu.

To experience the charm of Jiangsu in an all-round way, it takes 10 days for an in-depth travel in water towns.



D1 Arrive in Nanjing

Nanjing is the capital of Jiangsu Province. It was also the capital of the Wu Kingdom (222-280), the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420), Song, Qi, Liang and Chen kingdoms of the Southern Dynasties (420-589). It was said that Nanjing during the six dynasties was the first city with a population of more than one million. Nanjing and Rome are known as the "two centers of world classical civilization."



D2 Nanjing

Nanjing Museum is one of the three major museums in China. From prehistoric dinosaur fossils to the Jiangnan (area south of the Yangtze River) culture of Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911), the essence of Jiangsu civilization gathers in the museum with six main exhibition halls. Nanjing Museum now has more than 420,000 pieces (sets) of collections, all of



which are the treasures of the past dynasties.

After leaving the museum, we will visit Meiling Palace, the former residence of Soong Mei-ling. Built in 1931, the main building of the villa is a three-storied palatial building of antique architectural style, topped with green glazed tile. From the bird's view, the villa looks like an emerald and pearl necklace. Plane trees line the ring-shaped road that leads to the main building of the villa. And the dark green glazed tile is like the jewel pendant of the necklace.

When night falls, we will take the gaily-painted pleasure boat for a night tour on Qinhuai River. Qinhuai River is the mother river of Nanjing. Since ancient times, it has been a place where literati and businessmen gathered. Gaily-painted pleasure boats glide along the Qinhuai River, like small and exquisite floating palaces.

D3 Nanjing-Changzhou

We will come to Changzhou. First of all, we will visit Qingguo Lane which is one of the ancient streets in Changzhou.

Whereafter, we will take a gaily-painted pleasure boat to visit the ancient Grand Canal. In the light breeze, starting from the east gate of Qingguo Lane, we can take a night cruise leisurely along the Nanshi River and watch the lights reflecting on the river.

Finally, we will visit Dongpo Park. Su Dongpo, also known as Su Shi, a great litterateur in the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) who has visited Changzhou 11 times and died there. Dongpo Park was built at the place where Su Dongpo disembarked from a boat.



D4 Changzhou-Wuxi

We will drive from Changzhou to Wuxi. First, we will visit Lingshan Buddhist Scenic Spot, which is located on the bank of Taihu Lake.



Then we will go to the Zen culture town of Nianhua Bay. The Zen of Nianhua Bay lies in everyday life. Whether sipping tea, walking, copying sutras, meditating, or sitting in a daze in front of a carved fence, taking a sunbath in the afternoon, we can cultivate a peaceful mood.

We will also watch the performance "Zen Tour" in Nianhua Bay. The show was created by a production team which participated in a G20 gala performance. It showcases the beauty of Nianhua Bay through its buildings featuring the Tang and Song dynasties, creating a Zen environment of "One flower one world, one leaf one Tathagata." According to the latest big data released by Trip.com, reservations for vacation products of appreciating flowers during February and March have rocketed 880% year-on-year. Among them, "one-day trip in Nianhua Bay, Wuxi" and "the plum appreciation tour in the ancient capital of Nanjing" are rather popular among visitors.

D5 Wuxi-Suzhou

We'll visit Suzhou. The exquisite ancient gardens of Suzhou and the Suzhou section of the Grand Canal have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list.

We will get up early and visit the Linger Garden. The Humble Administrator's Garden and the Linger Garden in Suzhou, the former imperial gardens at the Summer Palace in Beijing and the Summer Resort in Chengde are known as the four most beautiful gardens in China.

In the afternoon, we will visit the 3,600-meter-long Shantang Street in northwestern Suzhou. It's known as "the epitome of old Suzhou and the window of Wu culture."



The archaic street recreates the prosperity of Shantang, with shops and halls gathering. There are time-honored food brands including Caizhizhai and Wufangzhai, as well as shops with cultural characteristics, such as Taohuawu New Year woodblock paintings, red sandalwood carving, and embroidery. Then we will go to enjoy Pingtan, a form of ballad singing in Suzhou dialect with Chinese instruments. Sitting in an exquisite garden, drinking tea and watching the performance, you can fully enjoy the charm of Suzhou.

Finally, we will experience Suzhou residents' life which is filled with hustle and bustle at Shuangta Market, which was upgraded from Shuangta Vegetable Market. The designer took "the direction of home" as the design concept, and regarded the vegetable market as a link of the center of community life. Inside the market, there're also cafes, bistros, stages and other leisure areas, greatly enriching the life of nearby residents.

D6 Suzhou-Nantong

We'll drive from Suzhou and cross the Suzhou-Nantong Bridge to Nantong. Engineers overcame many difficulties in building this large Yangtze River bridge, creating many records of bridge construction in China and the world. Driving on the bridge, we can see the Yangtze River, the third longest river in the world and the longest river in Asia. The scenery may remind you of the sentence excerpted from a poem by renowned poet Li Bai of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), "His lessening sail is lost in the boundless blue sky, where I see but the endless River rolling by."

After arriving in Nantong, we will visit the Golden Beach. Every time when the sun rises, the whole beach is covered with "gold sand," hence the name "Golden Beach." The river and sea, the vast

wetlands, the beautiful original ecological landscape, rich and colorful flora and fauna on the beach form a unique landscape in the eastern coastal areas of China.

Then we will go to Lyusi Fishing Port. Located in Lyusi Town with unique South Yellow Sea style, it is one of the six national central fishing ports. We can go to Lyusi Seafood Market, buying seafood and tasting authentic fresh seafood.

In the evening, we will have a night tour on Haohe River. In ancient times, Haohe River was the moat of Nantong, which has a history of one thousand years. The water sways with the wind, shimmering in the dark. Gaily-painted pleasure boats with red lanterns sail on the river. Fish jump up, making glittering waves.



D7 Nantong-Yangzhou

Yangzhou is located in the middle of Jiangsu Province, where the Yangtze River meets the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal. It is a City of Gastronomy and has shared provenance with the Grand Canal.

We are going to Yangzhou. First, we will visit Daming Temple. The famous temple with a history of over 1,000 years is standing on the peak of Mount Shugang.

Then we will visit Caiyi Street, which literally means Colorful Clothes Street. Here you can enjoy traditional Yangzhou cuisine. Walking in the alleys, you can fully feel the footprints of history.

D8 Yangzhou-Nanjing

Yangzhou is a city that can make people slow down. This morning, we will experience the slow life of Yangzhou residents. Fuchun Teahouse, a renowned century-old restaurant in Yangzhou, mainly offers Huaiyang fine snacks, such

as steamed buns stuffed with red bean paste, Huangqiao sesame pancake, scallion oil pancake, and boiled shredded dry bean curd, etc. All of them are deeply loved by foodies.

Then we will drive back to Nanjing through the Nanjing Yangtze River Tunnel. The tunnel runs under the Yangtze River, with a total length of 5,853 m and six lanes in both directions. It is known as "the first tunnel of the Yangtze River."

After arriving in Nanjing, we will visit Yihe Road, where lush Oriental Plane trees are planted on both sides. Wondering on the road, you can see green shade with nearly 100 Western-style buildings of different styles. The road is known as the "museum of China's republican-era architecture."

At last, we will visit the Zhonghua Gate (Gate of China), the most splendid gate at the City Wall of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) in Nanjing. The Ming city wall is the largest and best-preserved city wall in the world, and Zhonghua Gate is the most splendid gate at the wall. The imposing structure that stands on the spot till today justifies every bit of the effort and talent that was put to work way back some 600 years ago.

D9 Nanjing

The last stop of our journey will be Niushou Mountain Cultural Tourism Zone. Niushou Mountain gets its name from the top of the east and west peaks shaped like the head of a cow and its double horns. Niushou Mountain has beautiful scenery and is especially famous for its spring sight. There are many historical sites, such as stone carvings, Zheng He Cultural Park and so on.



D10 Depart from Nanjing

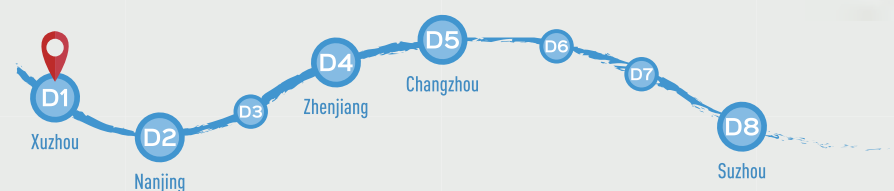
Ten days go by so quickly. It is time to say goodbye to Jiangsu's rivers, lakes and seas, the Yangtze River and the Grand Canal. We are looking forward to meeting with each other for the Charm of Jiangsu again.

CANAL CHARM

in Jiangnan Area

Route designed by Fan Juan

Written by Iris Shen, Nicole Ni, Zhou Xuanting and Wang Xiyao



With the core concept of "Charm of Jiangsu," the route recommended by Changzhou Guangdiandalu International Travel Agency Co., Ltd., enables tourists to learn the culture of and customs along the canal. After visiting museums, ancient docks, ancient post stations, old villages, and other attractions, tourists from home and abroad can feel the profound history and rich culture of Jiangsu.

The ancient Beijing-Hangzhou Canal runs through Jiangsu Province, serving as a cultural bond connecting cities along the canal. It gave birth to the unique culture in Jiangnan (area south of the Yangtze River), and also worked to nourish the evolution of Chinese culture by enhancing communication between the south and the north.

D1 Xuzhou

During the trip along the canal, Yaowan Ancient Town in Xuzhou, northern Jiangsu keeps my expectation alive.

The Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal turns a corner in Yaowan Ancient Town. The ancient town, near the Grand Canal in the west and Luoma Lake in the east, is one of the main wharfs and commercial towns on the canal. Up to now, Yaowan Ancient Town, surrounded by water on three sides, still retains a large number of architectures built in the late Qing Dynasty and early Republican China with rivers and ponds, green bricks, black tiles and old trees. Despite the passage of times, the Xuzhou section of the Grand Canal flows quietly by the ancient town, and the life there moves forward leisurely.

Another reason for my expectation is that I watched the movie *The Wandering Earth II* during the Spring Festival. It was co-produced by MOREVFX, an enterprise in Wuxi National Digital Film Industrial Park. There are many "pillars of a great power" in the movie, such as the "space elevator" soaring across the earth and sky and the "construction machinery" in the harsh environment, etc. Many prototypes of them come from the leader of China's construction machinery industry—Xuzhou Construction Machinery Group Co., Ltd. (XCMG). They add more real effects to the film, filling *The Wandering Earth II* with hard techs and dazzling skills.

I believe that the worldwide popularity of *The Wandering Earth II* will let more people know about XCMG. They are looking forward to the canal style of Yaowan Ancient Town in Xuzhou, and a cool industrial tour in Jiangsu.



D2 Nanjing

The second stop will be Nanjing. It only takes more than 1 hour from Xuzhou to Nanjing by high-speed train.

Do you know the reason for Nanjing's reputation as the "ancient capital of the six dynasties" and "the prefectural city of ten dynasties?" It is inseparable from Nanjing's extensive water system. Situated to the south of the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, Nanjing is an important comprehensive transportation hub in China. Walking on the streets of Nanjing, you can find traces of history in this city, bringing a different experience.

First, we will visit the historic site of the Presidential Palace, built more than 600 years ago.

It remains modern architecture mixing both Chinese and western characteristics, with beautiful scenery as well as strong historical and cultural atmosphere with precious relics.

In front of the Confucius Temple is the Qinhuai River that runs through Nanjing. When night falls, we will have a wonderful time by the Qinhuai River. As a branch of the Yangtze River, the Qinhuai River is the birthplace of the age-old Nanjing culture and was named as the city's mother river. Many famous writers and poets have left words of appreciation for its beauty. Qinhuai River not only offers tourists the sound of oars and the shadow of lights but also its cultural history that tells the beauty of the river.

D3 Nanjing

We will visit the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum in the morning, appreciating the scenery of Purple Mountain while learning about the history behind.

In order to continue to taste the historical charm of Nanjing, we will visit the Nanjing Museum in the afternoon. It was founded as the preparatory office of the National Central Museum in 1933 on the initiative of a noted scholar, Cai Yuanpei. It's the earliest museum in China and the first large-scale comprehensive museum funded by the state capital.

D4 Zhenjiang

After tasting the historical and natural charm of Nanjing, our next destination will be Zhenjiang. The steaming Zhenjiang pot noodles greeting us showcase the city's enthusiasm.

As the starting point of the Jiangnan Canal, Zhenjiang is located where the Yangtze River meets the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, from which the Grand Canal crosses the river to the north. Among them, the river channel from Tashan Bridge to Jingshier Road is the middle section of the ancient canal, which passes through the city, presenting a variety of scenery along it. From the simple and magnificent memorial gate to the quiet and classical Dingmao Bridge, the continuous scenery on both sides of the canal shows both the majesty of the river and elegance of the small bridge and flowing water in Jiangnan.

Xijin Ferry Scenic Area in Zhenjiang City retains a large number of historical relics since the Tang Dynasty. Stepping on the green flagstones of Xijin Ancient Street, walking to the end of the street and climbing up to the hillside, we can see the mighty Yangtze River in distance and overlook the prosperous Xijin Ferry. Getting up early, we can taste the morning tea. At night, we can enjoy the night view.

On this trip, I also want to visit Jianbi Ship Lock in the eastern suburbs of Zhenjiang City. Located at the intersection of the Yangtze River and the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, it is the only large-scale double-line lock directly connecting the canal section in southern Jiangsu with the Yangtze River. It is an important shipping hub connecting the North-South Canal and the Yangtze River water transport, where endless ships travel on the river for communication and exchanges, and also revitalize the Grand Canal.

D5 Changzhou

The Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal runs through Changzhou. With a history of over 2,500 years, Changzhou is home to many historical sites, including Tianning Temple, the picturesque Tianmu Lake, the Nanshan Bamboo Sea, the Taihu Lake, and Spring and Autumn Yancheng Scenic Area.



Our first stop in Changzhou will be Changzhou Museum. In the afternoon, we will visit the Spring and Autumn Yancheng Scenic Area. Located in Wujin District, the south suburb of Changzhou, the relics are currently the best-preserved city relics of the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BC) in China. The architectural style of the relics is also unique, with three moats.

Yancheng Spring and Autumn Amusement Land is one of the most important sections of the Spring and Autumn Yancheng Scenic Area, and the first cultural theme park of Spring and Autumn Period in China. Here we will visit the park themed "one hundred masters and schools of thought" and the area of "proverbs and allusion," step on the "Sun Wu Dian Jiang Tai" (a platform for the general Sun Wu to select warriors), overlook the unparalleled ancient city relics formed by three cities and three moats, and learn about the history of the Spring and Autumn Period.

D6 Changzhou

Comb is not only a barber's tool, but also one of the eight hair accessories in ancient China. It's regarded as one of the traditional handicrafts in China. The Changzhou comb enjoys a widespread reputation for its exquisite workmanship and long history. On the second day of our tour in Changzhou, we will visit the Changzhou Comb Museum to learn about the history of comb and its making techniques.

Next, we will visit Qingguo Lane where we can taste glutinous cakes and shrimp cakes. Later, we will enjoy boating on the Changzhou section of the Grand Canal. For thousands of years, the ancient Grand Canal has left Changzhou with rich cultural resources and numerous places of interest. Boating on the ancient canal and feeling the changes of the times, we can appreciate the beauty of the Grand Canal, one of the greatest projects in human history.

In the afternoon, we will visit the Canal 5 Creativity Campus. It transformed the original Changzhou No. 5 Textile Factory into a creative industry campus along the canal. After many years, the grand industrial scene of the past no longer exists, but the industrial legacy has burst into new vitality under the wisdom of modern people.

D7 Changzhou

On the last day in Changzhou, we will go to Tianmu Lake. Located in Liyang City, where Jiangsu, Anhui and Zhejiang provinces meet, Tianmu Lake Tourism Resort possesses two national-level large reservoirs, Shahe and Daxi.

D8 Suzhou

Thanks to the Beijing-Hangzhou Canal, Suzhou has become a paradise for thousands of businessmen since ancient times, praised as the "Oriental Venice" by Marco Polo.

We will come to Suzhou. First of all, we will visit the Humble Administrator's Garden. As the top classical garden of Suzhou, the garden is a world cultural heritage site. With the superb artistic technique of freehand landscape painting, gardens in Suzhou have a unique historical position and value in the world history of landscape architecture. They contain strong traditional Chinese thoughts and cultural connotations and are a model of Oriental civilization in the art of landscape architecture.

In the afternoon, we will come to Zhouzhuang Water Town, an ancient town full of Jiangnan beauty. Zhouzhuang is a typical water town in Jiangnan. With lakes on four sides, the beauty of Zhouzhuang is especially to be found along the waterside lanes and around a number of stone bridges. There are altogether 14 ancient stone bridges built in the Yuan (1279-1368), Ming (1368-1644), and Qing (1644-1912) dynasties on the double cross-shaped river. Our trip will also round off in this beautiful Jiangnan water town.

CHARM OF JIANGSU

Appreciate Civilization with Culture and Museum

Designer: Hu Xiao



CHARM OF JIANGSU

Dream in Garden

Designer: Hu Xiao

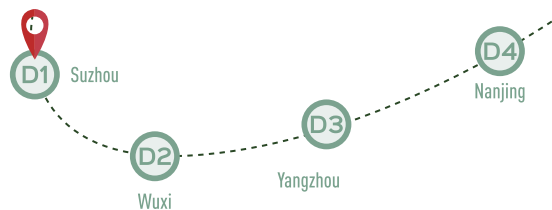


APPRECIATE CIVILIZATION WITH CULTURE AND MUSEUM

Route designed by *Fiona*

Written by *Rachel Chen, Zhang Zhixi and Fang Fei*

The route recommended by Jiangsu Tourism (Spain) Promotion Center shows the cultural and tourism resources, including architectures, artifacts, and intangible cultural heritages of four cities: Suzhou, Wuxi, Nanjing, and Yangzhou. The travel line aims to present the charm of Jiangsu.



Jiangsu, nourished by the Yangtze River as well as other lakes and canals, is blessed with picturesque landscapes, diverse culture and exquisite art. People in Jiangsu enjoy life and are keen on art, just like people in Spain. Jiangsu boasts world-class museums, magnificent buildings, elegant handicrafts, as well as ingenious art.

As an old Chinese proverb goes, "Distance cannot divide true friends who feel close even if they are thousands of miles apart." The four-day trip is expected to enhance the friendship between the Chinese and Spanish people, and to help our Spanish friends to learn more about the culture and art in Jiangsu.



D1 Suzhou

People in Suzhou, a city with profound culture, have been fond of art. They've built exquisite gardens and museums, and passed on intangible cultural heritages such as embroidery and Kunqu Opera.

The first day of the trip will begin at the Master of Nets Garden, one of the best-preserved gardens in Suzhou that will offer you a fascinating glimpse into the exquisiteness of classical Chinese gardens. Recognized with the other classical gardens of Suzhou as a UNESCO world heritage site, the garden well demonstrates a striking feature of Suzhou's gardens, that is, to change the scenery in every single step and recreate a universe within a narrow space by synthesizing art, nature, and architecture. With the labyrinth of courtyards and windows framing scenes in other parts of

the garden, it is so ingeniously laid out that you will find it is deep and serene without feeling confined, although it is dotted with pavilions, rockeries, and ponds. Apart from its compact structure and exquisite construction, it is lively and dynamic as water is seen everywhere.

Then we will visit Suzhou Museum, which was designed by I. M. Pei, a world-renowned contemporary architect. The museum carries over many of the geometric and visual elements that characterize Pei's design—squares, rectangles, and pyramids. Hexagonal windows in the museum are even more elegant. The design takes cues from traditional Suzhou architecture with its use of whitewashed plaster walls, dark gray clay tile roofs and intricate garden architecture. Suzhou Museum has a collection of more than 40,000 pieces, featuring paintings, calligraphy, ceramics, textile, jade ware, handicrafts from the Bronze Age to Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911).

Suzhou is well-known for its silk products. In the afternoon, you can take a walk in Suzhou and visit Suzhou Embroidery Museum. With a history of over 2,000 years, Su Xiu, or Suzhou embroidery, is one of China's four famous embroidery varieties. This form of handicraft has earned a prestigious reputation for its variety of stitches, beautiful patterns, elegant colors, and consummate craftsmanship.

If you feel a little bit tired, just have a rest in a quaint opera house and indulge yourself in the performance of Kunqu Opera. Dubbed as "the mother of Chinese operas," Kunqu Opera was originated in Kunshan, more than 600 years ago. In 2008, Kunqu Opera was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the UNESCO (originally proclaimed in 2001).

While marveling at the breathtaking virtuosity of this great art, you may also feel the beauty of love, as well as the bitterness of parting in such classic pieces as *The Peony Pavilion*, *The Palace of Eternal Life* and *The Peach Blossom Fan*.

D2 Wuxi



Travel from Suzhou to Wuxi by high-speed train takes only 15 minutes. The Vatican Palace Sacred Site, located on the shore of Taihu Lake and at the foot of the beautiful Mount Lingshan, is one of the most iconic places of Wuxi. The city also captures the plaudits for its ceramics, including the famous Yixing dark-red enameled pottery teapot. Yixing is known as the home of Chinese redware made of the unique Zisha clay, also known as the "noble clay," a unique mine type not to be found anywhere else in the world. Yixing has been one of China's major ceramics producers for 2,000 years. The dark-red enameled pottery teapot has been favored by many people since ancient times.

Apart from dark-red enameled pottery teapots, Wuxi is also famous for its clay figurines. Huishan clay figurine, one of Wuxi's three most famous specialties, is a kind of colorful clay figure with a history of more than 400 years. As the crystallization of the wisdom and art of the ancient Chinese people, the figurine is famous for its exquisite craftsmanship, featuring full shape, smooth lines, bright colors and concise forms. If you are interested in it, you can visit the China Clay Figurines Museum in Wuxi, which boasts a rich variety of exhibits of the clay figurine industry in China. If you are fond of DIY, you can make a clay figurine yourself in the ancient town of Huishan.



D3 Yangzhou

It takes only one hour from Wuxi to Yangzhou by high-speed train. Yangzhou, an important hub on the Grand Canal, boasts traditional skills and techniques.

As one of the most significant features of Yangzhou's history and culture, woodblock printing first appeared in the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Listed as an intangible cultural heritage of China, it is a special technique for printing text, images or patterns on textiles and later on papers. Text, images or patterns are first painted on a wooden board. Then, they will be engraved. Later, they will be printed on papers, silk or other materials.

If you want to know more about the history of this city, you can start with the artistic style of Yangzhou lacquerware, which has also earned a strong reputation both at home and abroad. Originating during the Warring States Period (475-221 BC), Yangzhou lacquerware prospered in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), during which this technique was very mature. Master Jianzhen, a prestigious ancient Chinese monk who made the landmark journey to Japan to spread Buddhism over 1,200 years ago, also brought this technique to Japan. Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911) witnessed the heyday of lacquerware, and Yangzhou had become a national center of lacquerware production. Famous for its consummate craftsmanship, exquisite skills and unique style, it is delicate in artistry, harmonious and proportional in color, and soft and rich in luster.





D4 Nanjing

At the end of your journey, it's good to visit Nanjing, the capital of Jiangsu Province. Museums and ancient and modern buildings all prove the city's glory.

First, let's visit Nanjing Museum. It was founded as the preparatory office of the National Central Museum in 1933 on the initiative of a noted scholar, Cai Yuanpei. Looking from the outside, you may be amazed by the design of the museum. It is a complex of buildings that is modeled after Liao Dynasty (907-1125) palace, which

is characterized by curved eaves. Walking inside, you may be impressed by the fascinating array of treasures such as bronzes, jade, ceramics, gold and silver vessels, lacquerwares, silk embroideries, paintings, calligraphy and paintings, seals, and inscriptions. They all bear direct witness to the development of Chinese civilization over thousands of years.

Then we will go to the Oriental Metropolitan Museum which is an epitome of the heyday of Nanjing, an ancient capital of China's six dynasties. The museum displays historical relics of the six dynasties in the most comprehensive and systematic way. It

exhibits a large number of precious cultural relics such as celadon ware, terracotta figurines, tomb records, as well as the remains of the walls and extensive drainage facilities of ancient Jiankang City (one of the old names of Nanjing). What's more, it provides the stories of famous people of the six dynasties.

For sure, Nanjing is not all about profound history and culture. It is also a modern city bustling with life, as evidenced by the Nanjing Yangtze River Bridge. It is the first China-designed road-and-rail truss bridge spanning across the Yangtze River. At night when the lights are on, you may step on the

bridge and look into the distance to feel the city's prosperity.

Nanjing is even more lively during the Spring Festival. During this year's Spring Festival, representative activities featuring intangible cultural heritage related to "New Year Culture" such as dragon dance, lion dance, lantern festival, paper-cutting, New Year painting, and temple fair were attractive. Qinhuai Lantern Festival in Nanjing, Mazhuang Lantern Customs in Xuzhou and Wansui Monkey Lantern in Changzhou added festivity to the Spring Festival in Jiangsu. According to the "2023 Spring Festival Travel Weathervane" released by Fliggy,

"Chinese style + tourism" and "intangible cultural heritage + tourism" are favored by young consumers, and reservations for tourism products including Hanfu (traditional Chinese costume), intangible cultural heritages, handicrafts and other experiential activities almost doubled year-on-year. The Public Opinion Lab of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Alibaba Group etc. has completed the first comprehensive research report on the consumption trend of intangible cultural heritage in China. According to the report, Jiangsu stands out in the influence of intangible cultural heritages, which shows its popularity of intangible cultural heritage tourism.

Lantern Festival is time for family reunion and full moon. The colorful lanterns and household lights are brilliant, reminding people of their family. In the Daqiao Lantern Fair in Nanjing's Xinanli historical and cultural blocks, the inheritors of Qinhuai lanterns are showing unique characteristics of intangible cultural heritages such as lantern making, lantern appreciation, paper cutting, wood carving, sugar painting, etc. You can also buy Chinese-style products for the Spring Festival in the market. In this trip, we can not only feel the charm of cultural museums in all parts of Jiangsu, but also get dazzled in the festivity here.

Dream *in* Garden

Route designed by *Fang Zhicheng*

Written by *Clytie Shen, Zhang Jiajie and Fang Fei*

Highlighting the classical Chinese gardens in Jiangsu, the route recommended by Charming Holidays USA covers Nanjing, Yangzhou, Wuxi, and Suzhou to make a characteristic garden landscape tour, from which you can feel the charm of Chinese gardens and the calmness of water towns.



The gardens are the essence of arts including architecture, calligraphy, painting, literature and horticulture, which is like a poem and painting per se. If you don't come to the gardens, how can you know spring's splendor? Gardens in Jiangnan (area south of the Yangtze River) are tranquil, delicate and low-profile with a unique oriental style.

The ingenious gardens in Jiangsu featuring elegance and vicissitudes were built according to the local conditions and well-designed. The carved beams, painted columns, pavilions and water are all poetic and picturesque. This time, let's see the unique charm of Jiangnan gardens where every move presents a new scene and every scene is like a painting.

D1 Arrive in Nanjing

We will arrive in Jiangsu's provincial capital Nanjing, known as the ancient capital of six dynasties. The time-honored history gives the city a profound ancient charm, while modernization unleashes its vigorous vitality.

D2 Nanjing-Yangzhou

Our first stop of the tour will be the majestic Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum. Located in the Zhongshan Mountain Scenic Area, it is the mausoleum of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, a great forerunner of China's anti-feudalism revolution.

Reclining on the mountain slope, Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum stands astride the south-north central axis, blending the best elements of both traditional Chinese and Western architecture. From a bird's-eye view, it looks like a "Liberty Bell" on a green velvet carpet, and the entire cemetery and the mountain complement each other, solemn and unadorned.

Then, we will come to Yuyuan Garden which stands out because of its water and stones. Yuyuan Garden is one of the private villas in the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Yuyuan

Garden is a Huizhou-style architecture featuring black tiles, white walls and sweeping roofs with upturned eaves. Winding corridors, rockeries, rare stones, carved beams and painted rafters... the quaint garden is tucked away in Nanjing's most prosperous Confucius Temple-Qinhuai scenic belt, recording the passage of times.

Winding paths lead to serenity. Next, we are going to gardens in Yangzhou. The design of Geyuan Garden features a delicate arrangement of bamboo and rockeries that symbolize the views of the four seasons. Unlike other gardens, which use bamboo as an ornament, the soul of Geyuan Garden lies in bamboo. In the garden, bamboo covers an area of more than 12,000 m², and walking in it often makes visitors feel like they are in an ocean of thousands of tall bamboo. When a breeze blows, the bamboo sways and the shadow dances, just like the tide.

The four-season rockeries in Geyuan Garden have no parallel among classical Chinese rockeries. The builder constructed the masterpiece by using different kinds of stones and plants, representing the four seasons



in a year. When walking around in the garden, visitors can experience spring, summer, autumn and winter together.

We will walk to Dongguan Street in the evening. Since the opening of the Grand Canal, the thoroughfare starting at the canal and connecting urban areas has gradually become the most active place for business transactions and cultural exchanges.

D3

Yangzhou-Wuxi

On the third day, we will visit Slender West Lake, Yangzhou's city card. In addition to the scenic landscape, numerous gardens built on the banks contribute to the beauty of Slender West Lake and spread its fame nationwide.

Along with the ancient Yangzhou City, Slender West Lake has a span of history more than a thousand years. The lake is charming and colorful. Especially when the spring is

coming, walking by the lakeside accompanied by willows, flowers and trees, you will feel refreshed in spirit.

Next, we will go on a tour of Heyuan Garden. It is a classical garden built in the middle of the Qing Dynasty, in which the paths and corridors wind, rugged rocks and rolling rocks are situated by the pool, and pavilions are irregularly scattered between the hills

and rivers. All blend into one harmonious whole.

In the evening, we will come to the Qingming Bridge Historical and Cultural Block in Wuxi, a good place for night tour. The historical community, serving as the "culture origin" of Wuxi, reflects the development of the city. Therefore, it is far and away a historical and cultural landmark.

D4

Wuxi-Suzhou



Yuantouzhu, also called 'Turtle Head Isle, is the most popular scenic spot of Taihu Lake. Every spring when the cherry blossoms are in full bloom, the blossoms and rosy clouds reflect on the surface of Taihu Lake, offering breathtaking scenery by the lake.

In Yuantouzhu scenic spot, there are continuous mountains and sporadic sailing boats on the wide water, idyllic settings such as a small bridge over the flowing stream and houses hidden in the greeneries, and Jiangnan-style gardens, elegant and refined. The scenic spot is fascinating with the vegetation and wilderness where the birds are chirping and the flowers are in bloom.

Next, we will visit Jichang Garden. The garden is proud of its natural hills, elegant waters, concise struc-

ture, ancient trees and ingenious scenes.

The next stop will be Three Kingdoms Film and Television City, which is located on the shore of the beautiful Taihu Lake in Wuxi. It is China's first ultra-large-scale full-immersive film & TV shooting and tourism base. It is also China's first theme-based cultural tourism project integrating film & television culture and tourism.

Wuxi is not far away from Suzhou. As night falls, we are going for a stroll by Jinji Lake in Suzhou, as if trapped in a sea of lights. Standing in the mid-lake pavilion, you'll have a wonderful view over the lake. Wait for a boat at Moonlight Wharf that will take you to appreciate the water town, the vigor of Suzhou Industrial Park, and feel the ancient charm and modern style of Suzhou.

D5

Suzhou

On the fifth day, we will tour Suzhou. The city is famous for its gardens, among which Humble Administrator's Garden is an excellent representation. The design of the Humble Administrator's Garden is no lack in ingenuity, with water as the essential element. The waterway coordinated with rockeries flows through the garden; many pavilions are beautifully arranged; flowers and trees flourish. Wherever you stand, what comes into your sight is a perfect scene revealing the charm of water town in Jiangnan (area south of the Yangtze River).

The next stop will be Suzhou Museum. Walking into the museum is like visiting a century-old mansion, with a deep yard, dense trees and tall bamboos, where the traces of time and history are well preserved. Suzhou Museum is the best gift that the renowned China-born American architect I. M. Pei presented to his hometown, and also a dialogue between Jiangnan culture and the rest of the world.

What Suzhou Museum impresses visitors most is the rockery alongside the central courtyard. The architect used a wall in an ingenious way, taking the white wall as paper, and stones as ink. He stacked the Taishan stones by the water, resembling a scroll of painting. The rockery embodies simplicity and abstraction of modern art as well as the ethereal charm of traditional Chinese landscape painting.

The last destination of this tour is Lion Grove Garden. There are 108 gardens in Suzhou, and Lion Grove Garden is the only one of Zen Buddhism. It is classic and time-honored, dating back to the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), nearly 700 years ago. Its predecessor was a combination of a temple in the front and a garden at the back, which are both integrated and independent.

Known as the "Kingdom of Rockeries," Lion Grove Garden is piled with grotesque rocks and has the largest group of ancient rockeries in existence. Walking through those numerous winding pathways among the pavilions and anfractuous stone forest, one could easily lose one's way. The rockeries in Lion Grove Garden are rare in terms of size. The number of lion-shaped statues is the biggest. It is said that there are more than 500 stone lions in stone forests and rockeries.

The quaint ancient towns and gardens present different scenery in the four seasons, while they are even more attractive to tourists in the spring. According to Data Report of Travel Consumption on Valentine's Day 2023 released by Tongcheng Travel, ancient towns and gardens, theme parks, natural scenery, zoos, and museums have become hot scenic spots on Valentine's Day this year.

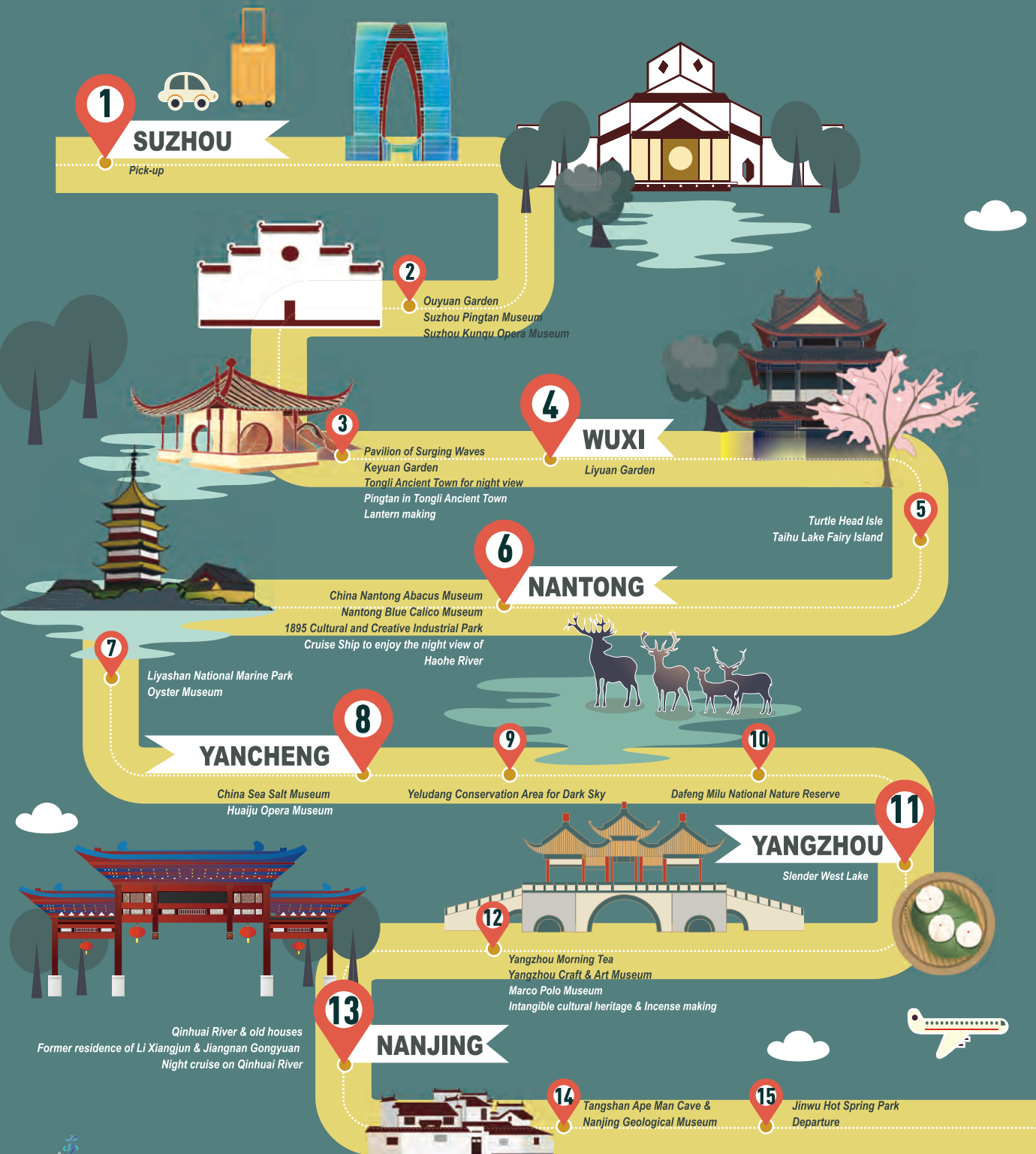
During the five-day journey, we will walk together in the gardens of water towns in Jiangnan, feel its unique tranquility and leisure, and get deeply immersed in the poetry. The garden tour in Jiangnan will come to an end.



CHARM OF JIANGSU

Travel in Misty Jiangnan

Designer: Hu Xiao



CHARM OF JIANGSU

A Trip with Wellness

Designer: Neva Gao



Travel in Misty Jiangnan

Route designed by *Bai Yiming*
Written by *Elvira Miao, Yan Yuejia,*
Liu Qiyin and Zhang Jiajie

Showcasing the history, culture, scenic spots and natural scenery in charming Jiangsu, the route recommended by tourism expert Bai Yiming aims to provide detailed travel tips for foreign tourists, especially backpackers.

Jiangsu grows with and thrives on water; it is also famous for its watercourses. This time, we will carry our backpacks and explore Jiangsu together to experience the history, culture and natural scenery in charming Jiangsu.



D2 Suzhou

In the morning, we will go to southern Suzhou to visit Canglang Pavilion (Pavilion of Surging Waves), the oldest garden in the city. In the afternoon, we will go to Keyuan Garden opposite Canglang Pavilion. The water in Keyuan Garden is more vibrant. There are not only many small fish in the water, but also big white geese and mandarin ducks grooming by the water.

D3 Suzhou

We will come to Tongli ancient town, which has won the reputation of "Oriental Little Venice" for its small bridges and flowing water. According to Fliggy's data on travel during the Spring Festival, the order of goods related to ancient towns increased by more than 4.2 times year-on-year. Wearing Hanfu, traditional Chinese costume to enjoy the lanterns and visit the temple fairs in ancient towns has become a unique way for many young people to celebrate the Chinese New Year. At the same time of travelling, visitors are also part of the scenery.

Tuisi Garden (Retreat and Reflection Garden) is simple and unpretentious, quiet and elegant, and has the architectural style of Jiangnan gardens in the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). The main buildings of the garden are built by the water. In the garden, we will enjoy the opera performances and Pingtan on the ancient stage in the square, which is quite elegant.

D1 Suzhou

We will come to Suzhou, a beautiful water city. Walking north along the moat, the Xiangmen Gate at the City Wall of Suzhou, the Xiangmen Gate bridge, and the Shuicheng Gate, we will arrive at Ouyuan Garden (Couple's Retreat Garden), a classical garden with Suzhou regional characteristics. In 2000, it was added to UNESCO's World Heritage Sites.

In Suzhou, you can't miss the famous Pingtan, which is a form of ballad singing in Suzhou dialect with Chinese instruments. We will come to the Suzhou Pingtan Museum to enjoy the slow tempo of life in Suzhou and feel the intoxicating charm of this intangible cultural heritage.

D4 Wuxi

We will come to Wuxi, a beautiful city, and visit Liyuan Garden and scenic spots around Taihu Lake. Liyuan Garden is located on the shore of the beautiful Lihu Lake and gets its name from the lake.

As we enter Liyuan Garden, we'll pass through rockeries and winding paths, and finally reach an open space to enjoy a panoramic view of lakes and mountains. The thousand-step corridor is a perfect place to appreciate Lihu Lake. Walking in the corridor, we can fully enjoy the beauty of the entire Lihu Lake. It's also enjoyable walking on the footpath by the lake.

In the middle of Lihu Lake, there is a beautiful islet with a beautiful name: Xishi Manor, which gets its name from Xishi, known as one of the four great beauties in ancient China. To go to Xishi Manor, we must take a ferry from Liyuan Garden. On the islet, there are Xishi Garden, Taozhu Mansion, Embroidery Building, Spring and Autumn Theater, Wangyue Pavilion and other buildings.

D5 Wuxi

In the morning, we will go to Yuantouzhu to watch the sunrise. The sun rises slowly from the lake, and the warm golden light fills the water surface. Breathing the fresh air makes you feel good all day long.

Yuantouzhu, also called Turtle Head Isle, is a peninsula situated at the north-west side of Taihu Lake. It gets the name for its huge rocks protruding into the Taihu Lake, appearing as if a swimming turtle tossing its head. The scenic area has become a resort for tourism, vacation and recuperation.

In the afternoon, we will take the ferry to Taihu Lake Fairy Island. Standing on the second deck and feeling the oncoming breeze, we can feed the bread prepared in advance to the seagulls that fly with the boat, which is full of fun. After watching the sunset on the island, we will take the ferry and tour bus to return. With the afterglow of the sunset, the scenery is really beautiful.



D6 Wuxi-Nantong

In the morning, we will visit Liyuan Garden. After visiting the main scenic spot, we will take a speedboat to enjoy the leisure and joy of charging on the water. We will get relaxed and carefree while watching the beautiful scenery of Wuxi again.

In the afternoon, after saying goodbye to Wuxi, we will head to the Haohe River scenic area in Nantong. Haohe River is the most complete ancient moat in China and is known as the "Emerald Necklace." We will experience some projects in the scenic area, including visiting China Nantong Abacus Museum together, making small handkerchiefs when visiting the Nantong Blue Calico Museum, and visiting the 1895 Cultural and Creative Industrial Park. After nightfall, the lights are bright, and we will take a cruise ship to enjoy the night view near the Haohe River scenic area.



D7 Nantong

In the morning, we will rent a car and go to Liyashan National Marine Park. Liya Mountain is a biological island reef formed by the accumulation of living oysters. We'll bath in the sea breeze here, catch crabs and oysters in the park. Then we will go out to sea to see the ruins, which is very spectacular.

In the afternoon, we will stand on the bridge to watch the ebb and flow and feel the beauty of the sunset. Then, we'll visit the Oyster Museum, which exhibits nearly 30 species of offshore oyster specimens collected by the Institute of Oceanology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences and from around the world, including almost 20 species of long oyster, pacific oyster, and pleated oyster from coastal and offshore areas in my country.

D8 Yancheng

We will spend about three hours to arrive in Yancheng, which literally means "Salt City," to feel the unique charm of the city. Yancheng gets its name from its proximity to the salt sea.

D9 Yancheng

In the morning, we will head to the China Sea Salt Museum. The museum is located in the Chuanchang River landscape belt of the ancient salt river in Tinghu District. It is a large-scale special museum that fully reflects the history and civilization of sea salt in China. Here we can watch a variety of sea salt and learn about the production process of sea salt.

In the afternoon, we will go to the Huaiju Opera Museum, to learn about the changes and costumes of Huaiju opera in artistic atmosphere. Then, we will come to the European Style Street, a Venetian-style commercial street. It's a good place for entertainment, and serves as an "urban living room" of Yancheng.

D10 Yancheng

On the third day in Yancheng, we will take picnic blankets, food, and flashlights to go to the nearest car-renting location, and drive to the Chinese Milu Park in Dafeng District.

The Chinese Milu Park is located on the coast of the Yellow Sea. It has the world's biggest group of wild milu deer. In this nature reserve, milu deer live carefreely. There is also the Fengshen Pagoda in the scenic area, which was built according to the fairy tale of Jiang Ziya, a mythological figure.

In the evening, we will drive to Yeludang Conservation Area for Dark Sky in Yancheng. We will lay a picnic blanket beside the car, watch milu under the bright starry sky, and find tranquility and beauty.



D11 Yangzhou

After 10 days of traveling, we will come to Yangzhou Slender West Lake Scenic Area after a rest and check into a hotel near the lake.

Slender West Lake has become a name card of Yangzhou. Here, we visit Ershisi Bridge, Xichun Terrace, Juanshi Cave Sky and other scenic spots. The Ershisi bridge is built on the water of the Slender West Lake. It is 24 meters long and 2.4 meters wide. It has 24 railings and 24 steps, which correspond to Ershisi. In Chinese, it literally means twenty-four.

D12 Yangzhou

In the morning, we will go to a tea house in Yangzhou to have morning tea. Then, we'll go to the Yangzhou Craft & Art Museum to see lacquerware, a time-consuming and painstakingly delicate craft which requires costly materials and used in ancient frescoes and furniture. Raw lacquer is obtained from lacquer trees, which grow in a warm and humid environment. This is one of the reasons why the artistic style of Yangzhou lacquerware has earned a strong reputation both at home and abroad.

After seeing lacquerware, we will visit the Marco Polo Museum. Marco Polo is a Venetian merchant and explorer who traveled along the ancient Silk Road to reach China in the 13th century and wrote the book *Travels of Marco Polo*. He stayed in China for 17 years, and Yangzhou was the only place where he served as an official.

D13 Yangzhou

We will continue our trip around the Slender West Lake in the morning. Wuting Bridge is not only the city symbol of Yangzhou, but also has the reputation of "the most beautiful bridge in China."

In the afternoon, we will go to the nearby incense making house to experience this intangible heritage. This place is very secluded and quiet. We can make all kinds of incense and produce our own favorite sachets and pills, and enjoy tea and snacks when we are tired.



D14 Nanjing

Our last stop will be Nanjing, the ancient capital of six dynasties, to appreciate its long history and rich culture.

We'll walk along the Qinhuai River from the ancient Taoye Ferry. As a legend goes, the noted ferry got its name since Wang Xianzhi, a famous calligrapher in the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420), saw off and met Taoye as her beloved concubine. Every time when Taoye went to meet Wang, she would come to this ferry to travel between the two sides of the Qinhuai River. Wang worried about Taoye, so he would welcome her at this port. Wang also wrote four poems named "Taoye Ferry," making the ferry famous since then.

Next, we will go to the Diaoyutai River House to experience the history and culture of the Qinhuai River region. We'll take a stroll in the old houses and see the three-entry architectural features of the old houses in Nanjing and the unique architectural style of the Qinhuai River. Scenic spots also include the Former Residence of Li Xiangjun, one of the "Eight Beauties of Qinhuai" and Jiangnan Gongyuan, the largest examination hall for imperial civil service examination in ancient China. After nightfall, we'll take a boat on the Qinhuai River to appreciate the night scene.



D15 Nanjing

On the last day of this trip, we will go to Tangshan Ape Man Cave, Nanjing Geological Museum and Jinwu Hot Spring Park to feel the beauty of Jiangsu's geological changes and charming water.

The Ape Man Cave is a huge karst cave where ape men once lived. There are all kinds of stalactites in the cave, which is spectacular and amazing. The Nanjing Geological Museum has three floors, each with a theme: Dinosaur World, Planet Earth and Life Evolution. The beautiful ores and rich landforms are displayed here, leading people to explore the mystery of the Earth.

In the afternoon, we will walk to Jinwu Hot Spring Park. After upgrading the current springs, the park has launched a series of hot-spring-themed activities, enabling visitors to fully experience the hot-spring culture. Apart from the beautiful scenery, we also have a chance to experience a canoe and kayak race. Our care-free trip in Jiangsu will round off here.



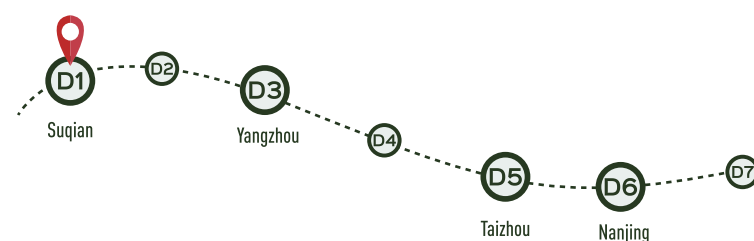
A TRIP WITH WELLNESS

Route designed by *Alina*
Written by *Ding Wenwen, Zhang Jiajie,*
Geng Chunxiao and Zhu Xiaojuan

Based on the rich and high-quality traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) resources of Jiangsu, the line recommended by Jiangsu Tourism (Russia) Promotion Center takes tourists to visit Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine and enjoy the TCM physical therapy, healthy meals, and hot springs etc.

Nowadays, wellness tour has become increasingly popular. Jiangsu Province is home to universities of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and TCM cultural bases. On top of developing themed health tourism such as forest parks, hot springs and health resorts, Jiangsu has provided a distinctive TCM health tourism based on rich TCM health care resources.

You can listen to legendary stories of TCM, perceive its extensive and profound culture, see authentic medicinal herbs up close, smell the wisps of the medicine and experience acupuncture, massage and medicinal baths to get relaxed. The list just goes on and on. Coming to Jiangsu for a TCM health and culture tour, you will find the balance between tradition and modernity, as well as health and harmony of body, mind and soul.



D1-2 Suqian

Enjoying the scenery, breathing in fresh oxygen, soaking in the hot springs, doing sports, trying delicious food... At the first stop, we will walk into Santaishan National Forest Park in Suqian to relax our body and mind in nature.

It is a natural oxygen bar. Linger in the mountains and rivers, breathing the

fresh air, smelling the fragrance of grass and trees, listening to the pleasant chirps, embracing poetic nature, cultivating body and mind... How comfortable! In the spring, you can also appreciate the duet of pear flowers and Chinese violet cress.

Wetlands are often referred to as the "kidneys of the earth," and Hongze Lake Wetland Scenic Area in Suqian is a good choice for vacation and wellness. The biodiversity is remarkable in the wetland which is a true "aquatic world" and "bird paradise." When

boating through the winding reed maze, you can see the lake shining with golden light, and flocks of egrets, wild ducks and other waterfowls flying into the distance, quiet and peaceful.

Hongze Lake Wetland Hot Spring Resort, with a wide variety of hot springs, is an ideal place for wellness. The outdoor hot springs in the metasequoia forest are the most recommended. In the vast forest, you can close your eyes, feel the warmth and comfort brought by the hot spring, moisturize the dry skin, relax the tired body, and nourish the eyes and mind.

D3 Yangzhou

We can go south to Yangzhou by high-speed train, which takes 1.5 hours. Li Bai (701-762), a great romantic poet of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), wrote the well-known verse "Sailing to Yangzhou in the lunar March when blossoms curl like smoke on the river," making the city in middle Jiangsu noted at home and abroad. Indeed, it was also a critical hub city on the Grand Canal in ancient China. *Travels of Marco Polo*, written in the 13th century, recorded Yangzhou's prosperity as

a commercial center at that time. As flowery spring-time is falling, let's explore Yangzhou in the works of Chinese and foreign celebrities.

Our first destination will be Slender West Lake, which combines the lake and the garden landscape. The famous lakeside garden boasts picturesque natural landscapes and quaint garden architecture. Here, you can walk along the river to enjoy the natural beauty, or step in the pavilions, terraces, and towers to appreciate the poems, paintings and calligraphy works of literati of different dynasties.

Next, we will slow down and visit the famous Dongguan Street. The street was an important land and water transportation hub in ancient times. Now, local people live a leisurely life, just like their ancestors. The bluestone alleys, white walls and black tiles witness the most authentic Yangzhou life.

Locals follow the practice of "skin wraps water in the morning, and water wraps skin in the evening," that is, to eat steamed buns and tea in the morning, and to enjoy time in bathhouses in the evening. In the morning, find a tea house, taste Baozi (steamed buns) in Yangzhou. In the evening, take a bath in a



steaming hot bathhouse. Lowering into the hot pool and as the warmth of the water courses through your veins, you will feel comfortable both physically and mentally. It is the most pleasant life of Yangzhou people.

D4 Yangzhou

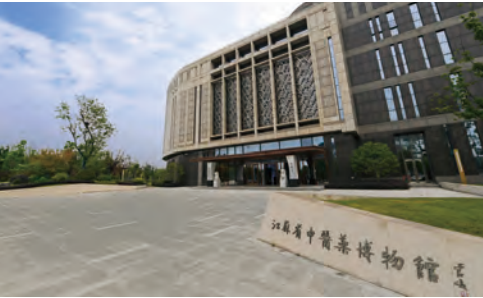
Feasting your eyes on the beautiful scenery of the garden, nourishing your stomach with Huaiyang cuisine, nurturing the body with traditional Yangzhou foot massage... How can one say "no" to the ways of experiencing the most comfortable Yangzhou life in depth?

Yangzhou's teahouses are peaceful and elegant, among which Fuchun Teahouse and Yechun Teahouse are even more prestigious. When walking into a teahouse, you can not only taste Yangzhou Baozi and watch tea ceremony performances, but also learn about traditional Chinese culture such as Guqin (Chinese Lyre), incense, calligraphy, and painting.

In the afternoon, it is a good choice to visit Geyuan Garden. The rockeries of four seasons are distinctive; rocks of different hues and shapes are used to represent scenes of the four seasons.

After a day of travel, a delicious meal with excellent color, aroma and taste, is enough to energize you. Designated as the "City of Gastronomy," Yangzhou is one of the birthplaces of Huaiyang cuisine which accentuates the fresh flavor

of the ingredients. Famous snacks such as Yangzhou fried rice, dried beancurd threads in consomme and three-diced steamed buns appeal to Chinese and foreign gourmets. Every grain of Yangzhou fried rice is not sticky. Dried beancurd threads in consomme is tender and delicate. The three dices include chicken, pork and bamboo shoots, good enough to make your mouth water.



D5 Taizhou

In the morning, we will head for two internet-famous places, Taihetang Medical Center and Taizhou Overseas Chinese Town (OCT). The ancient mansion, with green brick and tiles, high gates and a deep courtyard, was built in the Xianfeng Reign (1851-1861) of the Qing Dynasty. Now as Taizhou TCM Exhibition Hall, it has become a TCM center where famous doctors at all levels provide medical services and lectures, and a TCM publicity and education base. Here, you can not only admire the ancient Taizhou-style houses, but also turn to well-known TCM doctors to take care of your health through the four diagnostic methods—inspection, auscultation & olfaction, inquiry, and palpation.

In the afternoon, we will go to Qinhu Lake Scenic Area. It is vast, gentle and beautiful, and Taizhou OCT is located by the land of water. As the first national 5A tourist attraction in Taizhou, Qinhu Lake Scenic Area is a holiday resort.

D6 Nanjing

In the afternoon, we will go to Nanjing, a famous historical and cultural city. The wellness experience there is rather unique.

The first stop will be Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine (NJUCM). Founded in 1954, the university boasts five national-level characteristic majors, including traditional Chinese medicine, Chinese medicine pharmacology, and acupuncture and tuina. The university has five disciplines that rank ESI top 1%. For three consecutive years, it has ranked first among the universities of TCM in China on the "Best Global University Rankings" released by U.S. News.

We will make a reservation to visit Jiangsu Museum of Chinese Medicine in the university. Here, we can witness the mysteries of TCM, and widen our knowledge of common Chinese herbal medicines.

One of the exhibition halls in the museum restores the scene of ancient Chinese pharmacies. It exhibits medical works, prescriptions, couplets, and TCM-related artifacts, all of which are relevant to the schools of TCM in Jiangsu. It also houses medicines and techniques with Jiangsu characteristics that are renowned as intangible cultural heritage.

Another hall exhibits specimens of Chinese medicinal materials produced at different times since the establishment of NJUCM, and the several-meter display wall of immersed Chinese medicine specimens is amazing. The exhibition



hall also displays the scene of processing traditional Chinese medicine. There is also a learning experience platform formed by the Chinese medicine cabinet and prescription table.

In the health culture hall, you can also learn traditional fitness exercises such as Baduanjin (a qigong exercise), Wuqinxi (a medical exercise imitating movements of five animals) and Tai Chi under the guidance of professional teachers. You can learn about acupuncture culture as well as homology of food and medicine. You can also experience the rich deposits of TCM health culture in the quaint music and light fragrance.

After that, we will head to Nanjing Dapaidang to taste dim sum. The restaurant brand offers the most characteristic "Nanjing taste," including hundreds of snacks and vegetable dishes such as Mayling porridge, sweet taros with fragrans, etc. Once entering the restaurant, you can see hanging lanterns, couplets, waiters in traditional Chinese costumes bustling between the tables, and performances of storytelling and singing. All of these may take you back to the old days.

After dinner, we will visit Fuzimiao (Confucius Temple)-Qinhuai Scenic Area. The prosperous area stretches a total length of 5 km, with the two sides lighting up with colorful signs and

lights. Here, you can see the historical buildings of the ancient capital city of Nanjing, eat authentic Qinhuai-style snacks such as duck blood soup, tossed clear noodles with chili sauce, and deep-fried fermented tofu, walk through streets and alleys or take a boat on the Qinhuai River to feel the customs along the river from different perspectives.

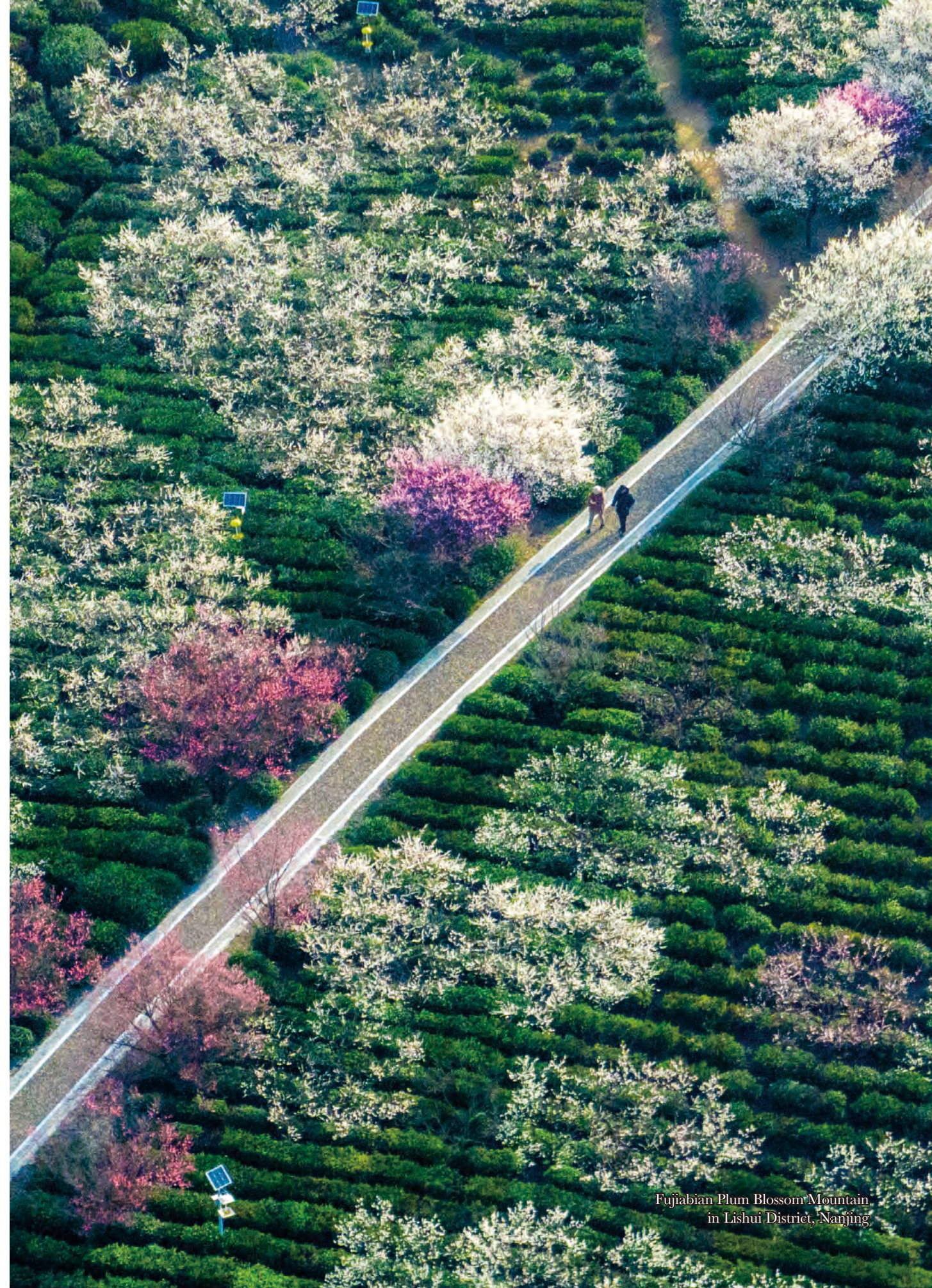
D7 Nanjing

"Go to Niushou Mountain in spring and Qixia Mountain in autumn." It's a popular travel tip from Nanjing residents. In the morning, we will visit Usnisa Palace on Niushou Mountain and taste the special vegetarian food. Usnisa Palace is located on the west peak of Niushou Mountain. The magnificent and lavish setting simply takes your breath away. Inside the palace, the displays and decorations are extremely creative and imaginative. The palace is definitely worth a visit in Nanjing.

The Spring Festival, time to bid farewell to the past and welcome the new, is the best for gathering together to pray for blessings. According to big data of Fliggy, compared with tourism consumption dominated by leisure, camping and sports, more users have sought after in-depth experience such as hot springs, health care, themed parks, relaxation in the mountains and rivers during the Spring Festival holiday. During the holiday, Niushou Mountain Cultural Tourism Zone in Nanjing and Hanshan Temple in Suzhou are the most popular places for prayer.

In the afternoon, we will head to Ziqing Lake Hot Spring Resort. The pools of Ziqing Lake Forest Hot Spring are surrounded by mountains, lakes and lush greenery where you can fully enjoy the pleasure of health care under the clear sky.

Our trip will come to an end at the bright night of Confucius Temple-Qinhuai Scenic Area, the bells and drums of Usnisa Palace on Niushou Mountain, and the characteristic flavor of Nanjing food.



Fujiabian Plum Blossom Mountain
in Lishui District, Nanjing