



JIANGSU GLIMPSES

WINTER ISSUE

JIANGSU

Glimpses

Winter issue

Ready, Set, Go
Sports, Ice, Snow

A Winter Tour
to the Picturesque
Ancient Water Towns in Jiangsu

Hot Spring Heaven

Jiangsu's Top Spa Resorts

Understanding Jiangsu with a Glimpse
of the Four Museums



WELCOME to winter in Jiangsu!

Welcome to winter in Jiangsu!

We hope this finds you well as we enter the Year of the Tiger! We also hope you find Jiangsu Glimpses to be a fitting, friendly accompaniment to your travels across our land. In this issue, we take you province wide to experience the principal highlights herein that are Ice and Snow Trip, Hot Spring Tour, Water Towns and Marvellous Museums.

As to the first of those, the fact that Beijing is host to the 2022 Winter Olympic Games shall need no introduction. For more amateur skiers and skaters, we shall take you across the province, from up north in Lianyungang and Xuzhou where the snows are more or less dependable, to the indoor ice rinks of Nanjing and Suzhou down south.

Then it's time to warm ourselves up with our special feature. To the uninitiated, hot springs in China are normally resort based, while the springs themselves are divided up into a number of small plunge pools. With temperatures of 38 to 42 degrees Celsius, hot springs are popular all year round, all over the country. And we have more than our fair share in Jiangsu, with many in areas of outstanding natural beauty. In addition to the mineral-rich, piping-hot waters which surge from deep below, each pool is more often than not infused with a health-giving nutrient of one sort or another. Mostly Traditional Chinese Medicine is utilized for the purpose, but so are plants and some quite creative alternatives.

Suitably invigorated, we next take you to a couple of southern Jiangsu's famed water towns, the "Venice of the East" that is Zhouzhuang ancient town in Kunshan City and Xijin ferry ancient street in Zhenjiang City, where there is in fact, no ferry whatsoever.

In Marvellous Museums, we next invite you to breathe in China's history on both a national and local level, at the world-class museums in Nanjing, Suzhou, Yangzhou and Nantong. Be warned, this could take some time.

Looking now to cuisine. What food makes you think of winter? All over the world, the answer to that may be soup, and Jiangsu is no exception. For us, it's mutton soup in particular. Read on about this, and other winter delicacies such as fish head soup, pigeon eggs and tofu. And let's not forget to feed you that new year treat, those glutinous balls of rice known as "tang yuan."

Finally, and as it's the new year, in this issue we also break down the best places across the province to experience the Lantern Festival as our moon turns full.

Both the tiger and the winter of Jiangsu welcome you!

Winter Issue

JIANGSU

Glimpses



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ICE AND SNOW TRIP

China making its debut as Winter Olympic Games' host provides us in Jiangsu with ample reason to take on Mother Nature's colder offerings.

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China making its debut as Winter Olympic Games' host provides us in Jiangsu with ample reason to take on Mother Nature's colder offerings. Indeed, as predicted, the Games have kindled a rapidly-growing interest in ice and snow sports among local people. Mostly that means ice skating and skiing. We take you to the pistes in both Xuzhou and Lianyungang and to the rinks of Suzhou and Nanjing.

And winter is also just plain beautiful too. Imagine the icons that we associate with China: temples, pavilions, and bamboo forest. Give them a healthy dose of snow and we have beauty beyond compare. And specifically to our region, the plum blossoms in many places is a kind of Jiangsu postcard.

Winter in Jiangsu is without doubt as distinct a season as any. And experiencing its options for ice and snow sports, or just as a treat for the senses, is a must for any visitor to the region!

Ice Hockey, Curling, Figure Skating & Short Track Speed Skating with the Youth Olympics

— Geng Chunxiao

An ice rink that was the main venue of the 2013 Asian Youth Games and the 2014 Youth Olympic Games is now used as a training venue for the Jiangsu short track speed skating and figure skating teams.

**Welcome to
the Nanjing Olympic Sports Center's Ice Sports Club.**



Getting there

Drive or take a taxi to the first floor of the Nanjing Olympic Sports Center Gymnasium (pillar C59 in the parking lot). It is about 15 kilometers from Nanjing South Railway Station or Nanjing Railway Station, and takes about 35 minutes by car.

On the Nanjing Metro, get off at Olympic Sports East Station on Line 2 and it's 900 meters from Exit 2, or on Nanjing Metro Line 10, get off at Olympic Sports Center Station and walk 900 meters from Exit 2.

The ice area of the rink is about 1,800 square meters. Advanced indirect refrigeration technology is used to make the rink, which can accurately adjust the temperature and hardness of the ice surface according to different sports requirements and can support various ice sports such as ice hockey, curling, figure skating and short track speed skating. A high-level coaching team is also an advantage of the ice sports club, with a number of retired athletes at the national level with rich teaching and practical experience. A second floor spectator area can accommodate 500 people, while a strength gymnasium provides a “one-stop” experience for fitness and leisure, artistic development and physical training.

Whether you are a beginner or an expert in ice sports, there's something for you here. Training courses are aimed at children from as young as three years, while ice sports enthusiasts also include adults. Starting from beginner skating, after mastering the necessary movements, you can transfer to basic ice hockey or figure skating, and then follow up with advanced or special training.

The dream is “engaging 300 million people in winter sports” and to start from the very young! The club cooperates with many primary and secondary schools to carry out ice physical education teaching all year round. It also has a number of youth ice hockey teams ranging from Under 6 to Under 14, and has achieved excellent results in many competitions held across the country. The ice sports club won the Under 6 2018 Sina Cup International Youth Ice Hockey Open group champion. Runner-up in the 2019 Women's National Ice Hockey Championship was the U12 team, while in the 2019 CCM City Cup Youth Ice Hockey Tournament, the U10s were group champions and the U8s were third runner-up in their group.

Ice sports fitness, training, competitions and school-enterprise ice games are the main businesses of the club. Since 2018, the Ice Sports Club has held the “City Cup” Ice Hockey Invitational Tournament every year, which has become a unique IP event for the club.

The dream is “engaging 300 million people in winter sports” and to start from the very young!



TIPS

Nearby tourist attractions

Nanjing China Green Expo Park, 4.7 kilometers from the club, about 17 minutes by car.

Nanjing Olympic Museum, 3.8 kilometers away from the club, about 12 minutes by car.

How to book

Customer service hotline: 025-8669 0465; 025-8669 0466

Opening hours

Monday to Thursday 10:00 - 21:00
Friday to Sunday 10:00 - 18:00

THE CLEAR SKY AFTER SNOW ON NANJING NIUSHOU MOUNTAIN

— Justin Jiang



TIPS

Nanjing Niushou Mountain is a famous Buddhist mountain in China with profound cultural heritage. Traditionally, the spring of Niushou Mountain is considered the most beautiful season to visit. That's the reason why the locals

in Nanjing go to Niushou Mountain for an outing every spring. However, with the erection of the Usnisa Pagoda, the Usnisa Temple and the Usnisa Palace, Niushou Mountain has acquired an even more dreamy feeling after a winter snow.

Among them, the Usnisa Palace was built on an abolished mine, with a total height of 9 floors, 6 of which are located underground, and the bottom floor is where the parietal bone sarira of Sakyamuni Buddha is treasured. The overall shape of the building is a Mani

dome with a giant lotus holding up the Buddha's parietal bone, with a diameter of more than 200 meters, which is splendid and spectacular. The interior design of the underground palace is also very beautiful and it's a good tourist destination.

Opening hours

Spring and summer (March – October) 8:30-17:30

(The Usnisa Palace closes at 17:00)

Autumn and winter (November – February) 9:00-17:00



For the Blades of Champions Luxury Ice Skating in Suzhou

— Frank Hossack

Skating rinks aren't renown for their lavish surroundings. Often in dimly-lit sports centers and sometimes the basements therein, they perhaps rarely get the tender loving care a beautiful sport such as figure skating deserves.

In Suzhou, however, there is an exception. Overlooking the breathtaking Jinji Lake, the Champion Link skating rink is to be found within Suzhou Center Mall. But before we take to the ice, there's a back story to tell. And with skating in China dating back to the Qing Dynasty, it's a long one.

There's a painting called "Games on Ice Skates" which dates from 1745, the 10th year of the reign of the Qianlong Emperor. Looking at it, we can see that

the skates portrayed therein were, even by then, highly sophisticated.

But they were expensive too. And so, just as many recreational skaters do today, most people then chose to rent their skates.

As the sun rises over Beijing and the 2022 Winter Olympic Games, figure skating was number three on the list of disciplines in which China has won the most Winter Games' medals. Only short track speed skating and freestyle skiing surpassed figure skating in the medal tallies.

It took until 1992 for China to win the first ever winter Olympics medal, when Ye Qiaobo stepped upon the podium in Albertville.

Yet, it would on the ice in pairs where

China would become prolific in the Games.

Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo became the first Chinese figure skaters to win Olympic gold, in 2010 at the Games in Vancouver. The triumph was a fitting climax to host of previous wins; bronze Olympic medals from 2002 in Salt Lake City and 2006 in Turin, plus three world championship wins, in 2002, 2003 and 2007.

Here in 2022 and back in Suzhou, skating has also been surging at the Champion Rink rink. And little wonder, given the rise of popularity in China for winter sports ahead of the Games, and the rink's location in the Suzhou Center Mall that is at present the city's largest mall, with some 300,000 square meters

^ Suggested mode of transportation

Suzhou's Dongfangzhimen station adjacent to the mall is served by Suzhou Metro lines 1 and 3. Champion Rink is located on the fourth floor of Suzhou Center Mall.

of floor area and 600 brand name stores.

A fitting place then for a Champion Rink facility. Dating back to 2000, the chain can be found in cities across China, offering citizens access to Olympic-standard ice rinks, for both recreational skaters and those looking for more professional options.

According to Guo Ming, a manager at Champion Rink in Suzhou, the ice rink business has a few eccentricities, namely keeping the rink cold enough

Skating in China dating back to the Qing Dynasty, it's a long one. There's a painting called "Games on Ice Skates" which dates from 1745, the 10th year of the reign of the Qianlong Emperor.



TIPS

Nearby tourist attractions

It takes just 5-10 minutes to reach the famous landmarks of the city, such as the Humble Administrator's Garden and the Suzhou Museum.

How to book

Customer service hotline

0512-69882969

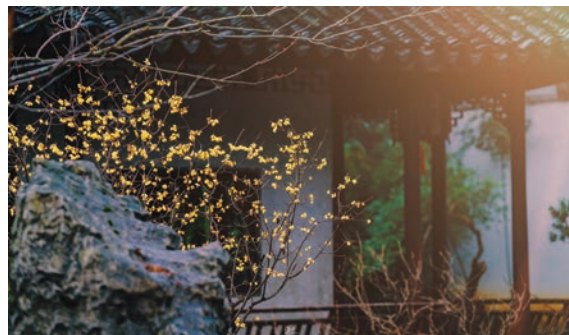


A Winter Visit To The Classical Gardens Of Suzhou

Leaves A Fragrant Memory With Wintersweets

— Geng Chunxiao

Plum blossoms might not be as white as snow, but they have a fragrance that snow does not have.



In the ancient city, walking on the snow and feasting one's eyes on plum blossoms leave such a poetic experience. The classical gardens of Suzhou are not only the city card of Suzhou, but also a masterpiece of art polished by time. Walking into the garden is like stepping into a natural landscape filled with diverse scenery, beautiful at all seasons. In winter, the pond water freezes and plum blossoms exude a magnificent fragrance. If it happens to snow, it is truly the most elegant place in the city.

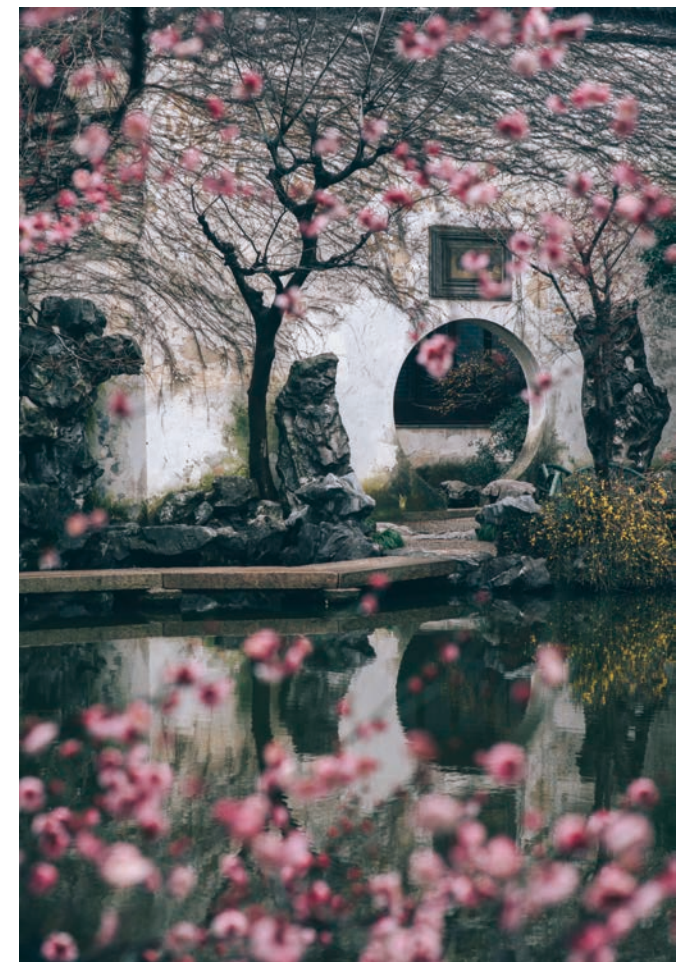


Humble Administrator's Garden is one of the four famous gardens in China. The first scent of winter here comes from wintersweet distributed in the south of the Raindrops Pavilion, the east of the Eighteen Stramonium Flowers Hall, and the west of the Floating Green Tower. When the flowers are in bloom, the fragrance is pleasant.

Surging Waves Pavilion was named a world heritage site by UNESCO. When visiting the Surging Waves Pavilion in winter, you will find branches of wintersweet jump before your eyes through the perforated windows from behind the white corridor wall. Outside each window is a tree of wintersweet with different shapes, filling the garden with fragrance. The cold aroma is so refreshing that it will make you stop and indulge yourself in it.

Lion's Grove Garden holds the Spring Plum Exhibition every year when the Spring Festival draws near. More than ten varieties of plum blossoms including palace pink, cinnabar, green plum, red plum, jade butterfly and so on are placed in the Ancestral Hall, Yanyu Hall, Yifeng Zhibai Pavilion, Flower Basket Hall and Wisteria Corridor, showing the elegant plum blossoms blooming against the cold air.

In the Master-of-Nets Garden, on the yellow stone rockery by the pond in the middle of the garden stands a wintersweet with sloping branches and beautiful flowers. In the small courtyard in front of Tiyun Room, before the gate of the Xiaoshan Conggui Pavilion, and in front of the small Wufeng Bookstore are all lined with wintersweets, which are extremely beautiful.



TIPS

Opening hours

Opening hours of the Humble Administrator's Garden, Surging Waves Pavilion, Lion's Grove Garden, Master-of-Nets Garden: 7:30 – 17:00
(ticket sales stop at 16:30)

In Shuiyun of Wuxi City in Jiangsu Province, skiing is a fascinating sport. To facilitate more people to experience skiing at their doorstep, Wuxi Sunac Snow Park has recreated a ski resort in a lively shopping mall, so that more families can enjoy the graceful sport, and learn its finer techniques without having to go to northern Europe.

Nordic Skiing in Wuxi Shopping Mall

— Geng Chunxiao



Getting there

Drive or take a taxi to Sunac Mao, No. 66, Sunac Cultural Tourism City, Binhu District, Wuxi City. It is about 26 kilometers from Wuxi Station, taking about 35 minutes by car.

Or take Wuxi Metro Line 1 and get off at Gedaiqiao Station. Walk about 500 meters from Exit 4.



Wuxi Sunac Snow World is located in Sunac Maonei of Wuxi Sunac Cultural Tourism City. As a large indoor ski resort integrating snow entertainment and skiing, it occupies a total area of 17,500 square meters, of which 10,000 square meters are devoted to recreational and ski areas. The primary ski run has a length of 138 meters and a maximum drop of 13 meters.

As soon as you enter the venue, cold air rushes into your nostrils, as the temperature here is minus six degrees Celsius all day long. A snow entertainment area specially designed for young children covers takes up about 5,600 square meters, to provide for little ones snow play areas and small gentle slopes. Therein, children can practice skiing under the guidance of their parents and enjoy fun activities in the snow.

In recent years, the Snow World has not only held a series of ice and snow events, such as the “Digital Ice and Snow Games,” but also set up special courses for different groups, including youth ski camps, research studies, youth competitive teams and quality education courses. Also worthy of mentions that Wuxi Sunac Cultural Tourism City also includes Wuxi Sunac Sea World, and Wuxi Sunac Water World, making it a one-stop colorful paradise for families to check out.

Turning this place into a snow-covered world are 18 refrigeration units, five snow machines, two snow drifting ma-

chines and five magic carpets. Such a magic land of Nordic-style ice and snow has been planted here, south of the Yangtze River, so that tourists can enjoy it even on the hottest summer day. In this “*dance of ice and snow*,” visitors can enjoy a carnival in the snow at Sunac Snow World in Wuxi, one not limited by season and space, and where they can take plenty of winter scenery photographs.

TIPS

Nearby tourist attractions

Xuelang Mountain Scenic Spot is 4.6 kilometers from Wuxi Sunac Snow World, and it takes about 10 minutes by car.

Wuxi Sunac Paradise, 1 km away from Wuxi Sunac Snow World, takes about 11 minutes on foot.

How to book

Search for the WeChat public account “无锡融创雪世界” and make an appointment to enter the park on the platform.





White Snow Decorated With Green Bamboo

— Justin Jiang

Yixing Bamboo Sea Scenic Area in Wuxi City, spanning across the three provinces of Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Anhui, covers an area of about 15,000 hectares. It is one of the representative scenic spots of Chinese bamboo landscape and bamboo culture. Bamboo is evergreen in all seasons, so that the bamboo sea after snow in winter is checkered with green and white, which is particularly attractive.

In the bamboo sea, mountain stream water and natural rainwater converge to form a small “mirror lake.” It is home to the 1.5 billion-year-old coelenterate *Craspedacusta*, a treasure among freshwater jellyfish, is known as the “giant panda in water.” The Jellyfish Pavilion in the corner of “mirror lake” is the best place to observe the *Craspedacusta*. But if you want to see their grand gathering, summer and autumn are the best seasons, when the jellyfish are most active.

Opening hours

08:30-16:30



Feel the Passion of Winter on Xuzhou's "White Carpet"

— Geng Chunxiao



Snow is the most special gift of winter, and the way to be closest to snow is by skiing.

Xuzhou Dajingshan Ski Resort has a snow field of more than 60,000 square meters for ice and snow lovers. The grounds and the ski trails here are wide and the slopes varied. First-class snow-making machines create real snow trails, while a wealth of equipment such as skis, snowboards and snowmobiles are waiting for every skier.

Snow is the most special gift of winter, and the way to be closest to snow is by skiing. In Xuzhou, both adults and children love this sport very much. Dajingshan Ski Resort has ski trails, snow rings, snowmobiles and other sports. The total length of the ski trail is 1.2 kilometers, which meets the needs of different skiers, while also creating an ice and snow world.

Downhill skiing, slalom, jumps, grabs, spins, leaps... Wearing bright caps, ski suits and snow goggles, grasping the ski poles in both hands it is all very cool. Flying across the slopes, careering downhill, the wind whistling in your ears, it's like dancing on the snow in the warm winter sun. At this moment, heaven and earth are free to cavort.

There is no need to worry if you are new to skiing. There are primary ski trails tailored just for beginners. Professional equipment, protective gear and coaches will quickly turn you into a ski lover. Standing on the top of the steep slope, eyeballing the snow-covered trail, taking in the long snow path beneath, you take one deep breath, and then you launch forward, flying over the snow, the marks of your skis stretching out rapidly behind you. Your pounding heart means you cannot hold back, as your fast and furious winter adventure begins.



Getting there:

Drive or take a taxi to the T-junction at Cornus Health Valley, Jiawang District, Xuzhou. Turn east and travel for 500 meters, and then turn south.

TIPS

Nearby tourist attractions

Jiawang Zhuyu Happy Valley in Xuzhou is 3 kilometers away from Dajingshan Ski Resort, taking about 15 minutes by car.

How to book

Customer service hotline: 0516-8760 1818



Flying on the Snow in Xuzhou

— Geng Chunxiao



Getting there:

Travel to Xuzhou Dugong Mountain Ski Park by car or taxi.

Surrounded by mountains on three sides, Xuzhou Dugong Mountain Ski Park is located in Dugong Lake Scenic Area in Jiawang District of Xuzhou City, and covers an area of more than 80,000 square meters. The snow here is soft, which is a good place to feel the all the fun it offers and enjoy skiing.

Perfect for snowboards, skis and other fun equipment, visitors can choose ski trails according to their level, or just play in the snow. The snow trails here are built on the mountains, with a minimum drop of 2.4 meters and a maximum of 40 meters. The primary trail is about 220 meters long, while the intermediate and undulating trails are 260 meters long and the advanced level about 600 meters long.

Equipment available for the visitors includes snowmobiles, balanced snow bikes, children's snow scooters, children's

snowboards and more. Gambol freely on the snow, competing with each other or challenging yourself.

Dugong Mountain Ski Park also has a 3,000-square-meter ski hall, more than 3,000 imported skis and ski boots, 500 snow discs and more than 10 snowmobiles. Parking is convenient, with nearly 20,000 square meters of spaces, while dining is available in the tourist service center, seating 300 people. The service center also provides tourists with sightseeing trips, skiing services and much more.

After an energetic day of skiing, soak in the comfortable hot springs, at Xuzhou Longshan Hotel just eight kilometers from the park. A hot springs tourist resort that integrates hot spring bathing, leisure health, eco-tourism, dining, and entertainment, the hotel has more than 30 kinds of hot spring pools, such as Traditional Chinese Medicine, Yao bath, wine bath, flower bath and milk bath.

Combining indoor and outdoor hot springs, tourists can soak in hot natural water, relieving the fatigue of skiing. Also worthy of mention are the various other activities, such as white water rafting, paragliding, beach motorcycles, horse riding, boat cruises and children's playgrounds in the vicinity of Xuzhou Dugong Mountain Ski Park.

TIPS



Nearby tourist attractions

Xuzhou Dugong Lake Scenic Area, 2 kilometers from Dugong Mountain Ski Park, about 9 minutes by car;

Xuzhou Longshan Hotel is 8 kilometers away from the ski park, about 15 minutes by car.

How to book

Customer service hotline: 0516-87602777

A TRIP ON A SNOWY NIGHT

—Justin Jiang

Opening hours

08:30-17:00

Xuzhou Han Culture Scenic Spot boasts Han tombs, Han Terracotta Warriors and Han stone reliefs, which are representatives of the China's Han culture. The core area is composed of the cultural essence of the two Han dynasties such as the mausoleum of a Chu State king in Lion Mountain, Han Terracotta Warriors Museum, and Han Stone Relief Corridor. It is a display of the cultural relics collections of the Han Empire that was contemporary with the ancient Roman Empire.

The sculpture in the picture was created based on the Han stone relief *Traveling on Carriages and Horses* which represents the high traveling standard of the Chu State king as a vassal king, echoing the mausoleum of a Chu State king. Against the background of the thin snow, the sculpture shows an even more vigorous and pioneering spirit of the Han culture.





TIPS



How to book

No advance reservations are necessary. It's as simple as just showing up, but ensure to show a green health code and to wear a face mask.

Tel: 15351832777. Operating hours are 08:00 - 17:00.



PISTES UP NORTH Tashan Lake Ski Field

— Frank Hossack



Getting there

Tashan Lake Ski Field is a 30 minute taxi ride from Ganyu Railway Station, north of Lianyungang.

Skiing is hardly a new phenomenon in China. Traced back over 10,000 years, the origins of the sport/transportation are accredited to semi-nomadic tribes in the country's Tianshan Mountain range. Many historians argue these were the first skiers in the world. Bringing us to some 30 kilometers short of the border with Shandong Province in northeastern Jiangsu, where we find Tashan Lake Ski Field. Opened in 2018, Tashan is the biggest ski facility in north Jiangsu.

Few in China own their skis and so equipment hire is included in the

There were also plenty to content themselves with laughing hysterically while lying in the snow on their backs having taken their first tumble.

ticket price. A ski hall offers all the necessary equipment, wherein a wide range of colour full outerwear is complimented by boots, skis and sticks. An adjoining catering area serves up simple meal, while an adjoining small shop offers drinks and snacks. Outside, on either side of the ski slope is what at first look suggests themselves to be a toboggan run. But no such joy. In fact they are water slides that ensure all year round use of the facility. Back here in winter, we will call them “posterior protectors” for want of better words. Essentially large cushions strapped around the waist, the

inventions keep the snow away from the skiers' rear ends. But being China, they come shaped as polar bears, tortoises or anything vaguely circular. Once the temperatures get down to zero more or less continuously, the machine-generated snow is laid down on the slope, up to 1 meter thick in places, by six dedicated machines. Almost 350 meters in length, the piste is 60 meters wide one side with a 10 degree incline and 70 meters wide on the other with a 15 degree incline. It's more than enough to get up sufficient speed and sufficient width to brake and take a decent turn, while

those building their skills can practice their snowplough with confidence. A conveyor belt in the center then takes tired skiers back to the top for another go, albeit at a painfully (and perhaps thankfully) slow pace. Jiangsu Glimpses made its visit to Tashan mid week in mid January and it was pleasing to see the slopes mainly occupied by a large number of vacationing students, many of who were far from novice skiers. That said, there were also plenty to content themselves with laughing hysterically while lying in the snow on their backs having taken their first tumble.



Huaguo Mountain A Fairy Land ⁱⁿ *Frozen*

— Geng Chunxiao

A heavy snow starts the winter sonata at the hometown of the Monkey King – Huaguo Mountain in Lianyungang City, Jiangsu Province.



To enjoy the snow, you need to climb the Yunyu Peak of Huaguo Mountain, the highest peak in Jiangsu with an altitude of 624.4 meters. Looking up the sky and overlooking the earth, you'll enjoy both its real and illusory scenery: crystal clear rime all over the smoggy mountain in a surging sea of clouds and dancing snow sparkling under the sunlight. The flying snowflakes, falling on the branches, whiten the mountain peaks and ennoble the flowing water, scattering cleanness and tranquility over the famous mountain. Rime, cedar, icicle and ice cascade all together add a special charm to the beauty of Huaguo Mountain.

After the snow, the Yunyu Peak of Huaguo Mountain would become a world of colored glass and a crystal fairy palace, just like the fairy tale world in Frozen. When the snow falls on mountains, in canyons and forest ravines of Yunyu Peak, it feels like a poem of the Tang Dynasty; when it falls on the red wall of the Sanyuan Palace, it's like a song of Song Dynasty; when it falls into the blessed spot in Shuilian Cave, it's like a piece of Han folk song. Come here in winter and you will encounter the gentle snow, the fragrant and elegant winter-sweet, and the joyful playfulness of the "Kinglet" macaques.

Opening hours

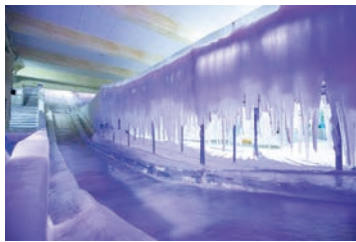
08:30-17:30



Jump into "Frozen" on "Antarctic Island"

— Geng Chunxiao

In Jiangsu Province, an Antarctic world awaits. The exciting Limar Strait flying slides, the thrilling Calafate Glacier Tunnel, Icelandic ballet, and Penguin Island sledding... These can all be experienced in Dino Water Town's Nanjidao Park in Changzhou.



Getting there

You can drive or take a taxi to 18 Dino Creative Park, 60 Hehai East Road, Xinbei District, Changzhou City. Antarctic Island Ice and Snow Park is about 7 kilometers from Changzhou Station, taking about 25 minutes by car.

Or take bus numbers 50, 53, 99, 302, or 527, get off at Dinosaur City Bus Hub Station, and then walk for 500 meters.

Antarctic Island Ice and Snow Park is an indoor theme park that integrates Antarctic science exploration, ice and snow amusement, and ice sculptures. More than 6,000 square meters of ice and snow will take you to explore a frozen "Antarctic World".

Glaciers come in a variety of shapes, some like beasts and flying birds, some like carved relief figures, some as sharp swords, and some resembling corals. Passing through the glacier tunnel, see the bizarre glacier world, experience the color of a magical crossing in the time tunnel, and enjoy the visual feast that is the snow mountain canyon.

A heart-pounding ice and snow tour shall be your reward for climbing the 6-meter-high ice slide, to then ride a snow-ringing down the 80-meter-long curving slide. Also lying in wait are the mysterious bendy undulating slide, and the excitement of driving a bumper car on the wide ice. Feel the dread of "imminent collision" and the thrill of "overtaking,"

satisfying your racing heart and a sense of madness in the ice and snow world. The Kunlun Station of the Antarctic Scientific Expedition is another attraction, but one very much grounded in the real South Pole. China Kunlun Station is China's first science station in inland Antarctic. Like being in a strange paradise, you can take photos with sculptures of scientific expedition members holding the nation's flag, and feel the arduous work of the members in this expedition for the motherland. What is an ice core? What is an ice shelf? What does the aurora look

like? This is not only a park for learning, but also a great place to be entertained. Through the Antarctic science wall in the park, you can not only learn about the animals of the polar regions, but also the types of whales in the Antarctic waters, and members of the penguin family. In addition to improving your polar science knowledge, you can also participate in the Antarctic Island DIY ice sculpture class, most suitable for families with children to explore this mysterious southernmost part of the earth together.



TIPS

Nearby tourist attractions

The China Dinosaur Park is 100 meters away from the Antarctic Island Ice and Snow Park, a few minutes walk.

How to book

Customer Service Hotline:

400-008-9629 0519-8333 2118



MOVEMENT AND STILLNESS IN

"Eight Trigrams"

— Justin Jiang

The Oriental Salt Lake Resort is located in Maoshan Tourist Resort, Jiangsu. In the middle of the resort is the “World of Tao” scenic spot which draws its inspiration from the pattern of Bagua or Eight Trigrams of the Chinese Taoist culture. You can travel and live there all the while enjoying folk performances such as busking and folk juggling. The architecture of the scenic spot is inspired from the classical Chinese style 1,600 years ago, which is rare in modern scenic spots in China. Its Chinese Taoism Culture Museum is the first one in China that fully displays the 5,000-year history of Taoist culture in China and, from a panoramic view, the development status of the Taoist culture in China and the world. It is definitely worth exploring. After a light snow, the Oriental Salt Lake Resort would be even more mysterious in the ornamental light.

Opening hours
08:30-17:30

HOT SPRING HEAVEN!

Jiangsu's Top Spa Resorts

— Frank Hossack

The concept of donning just a bathing suit and walking outside in sub-zero temperatures will be off-putting to many. Yet, there is nothing to fear. Quite the opposite in fact. Whereas a hot spring experience in summer can leave one fighting for breath, in winter time it is an invigoration without parallel.

The earth's crust over much of Jiangsu is thin enough to have left its telltale signs of volcanic activity in the form of hot springs, the waters for which come from as deep as two kilometers below us. And they bring with them a bounty of health-giving minerals and nutrients. Our visit to hot springs in Changzhou, Lianyungang, Nanjing, Suzhou and Wuxi shall serve as useful inspiration. It all makes Jiangsu perhaps China's No. 1 destination for a hot-spring holiday!

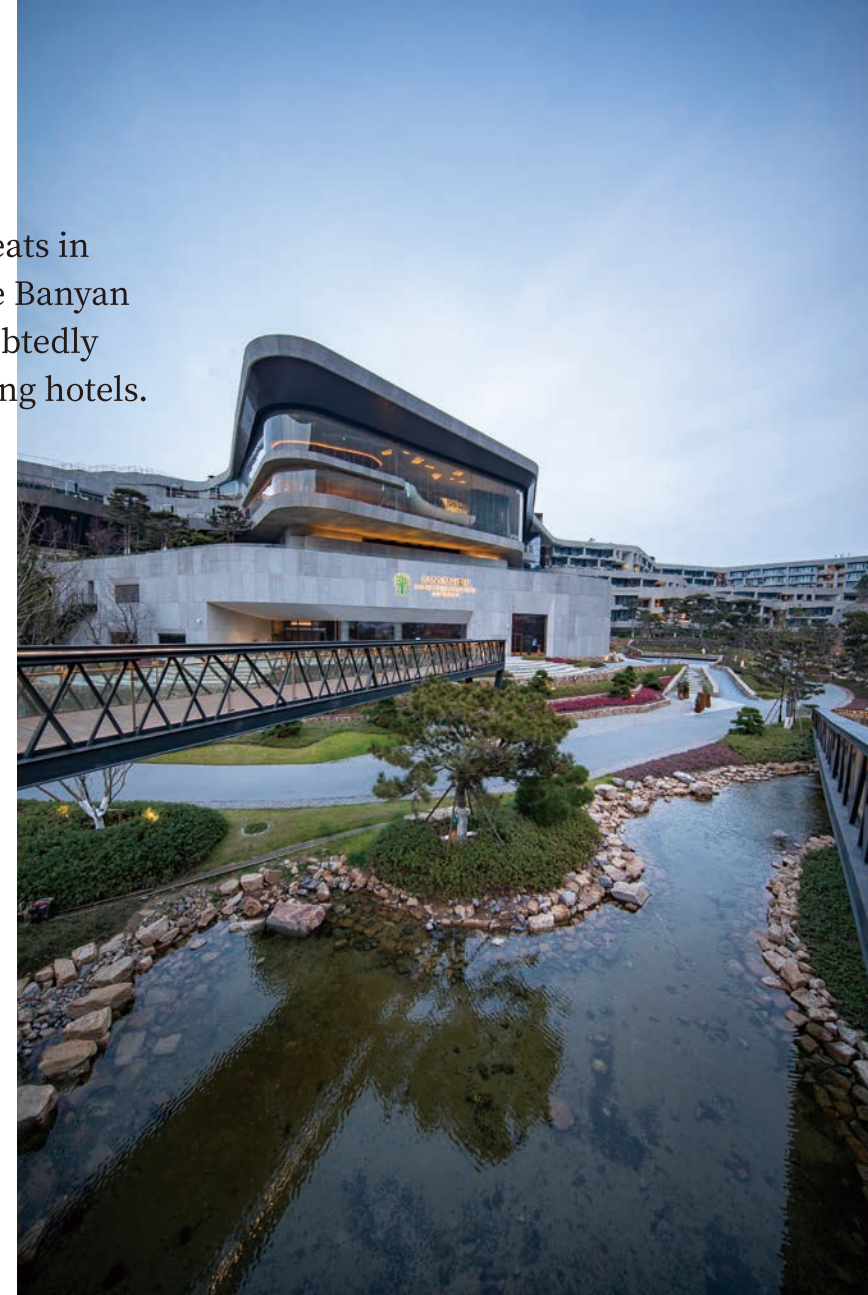
Among the 2021 newly opened retreats in Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Shanghai, the Banyan Tree Nanjing Garden Expo is undoubtedly one of the most anticipated hot spring hotels.

Nanjing's Mine Valley Encounter with Hot Springs

— Justin Jiang

The reason why Banyan Tree Nanjing Garden Expo is so eye-catching is largely due to its location. The Banyan Tree Nanjing Garden Expo is built in the Yunchi Dream Valley in Jiangsu Garden Expo Park, which in turn is in an abandoned mine. By turning the pit and industrial relics into a scenic garden, it has become a new landmark in Nanjing. Jiangsu Garden Expo Park is surrounded by Zijin Mountain, Qixia Mountain, Baohua Mountain and Tangshan Mountain. With convenient transport and superior location, it is one of the region's newest and most popular tourist destinations.

The main part of Banyan Tree Nanjing Garden Expo is located on the easternmost side of Tangshan Mine Valley. Its unique geographical location enables a quiet natural environment and yet a broad view overlooking the entire Yunchi Dream Valley. The meandering hotel building above the mine valley is like a bridge connecting the two ends of the mine cliff wall.



Getting there

Drive or take a taxi. Vehicles enter from the east gate of Jiangsu Garden Expo Park, and then follow the signs. The hotel is about 34 kilometers from Nanjing Railway Station and Nanjing South Railway Station, about 50 minutes by car. It's 60 kilometers from Nanjing Lukou Airport, about an hour by car.

Elements such as light, stone, forest and rain are re-shaped here, forming a spectacular “secret mine valley.” The hotel is surrounded by themed gardens, and because it is close to the cliff, you can also see the misty waterfall cascading down from the top, resembling a fairyland. The three highlights that are the Deep Pit

Mine, the Tangshan Hot Springs and Nanjing Garden Expo Park, brilliantly combine design, landscape, and leisure in one place.

The lobby of the hotel is in the shape of a cocoon, a metaphor for new life. Supplemented by the aesthetics of woven bamboo art, light and shadow, the whole space has a very open feel. Meanwhile, the fascinating design of the front desk and the nearby spiral staircase means that many a guests cannot help but press the camera-shutter, making this place popular with internet celebrities.

The hotel has 115 rooms and suites, each with a balcony featuring a magnificent view and its own hot spring pool. On winter evenings, you can take a comfortable bath in the hot spring pool while enjoying the view. During the day, you can relax in the lounge, encompassed by the valley garden and the distant cliff landscape. If you have more friends, you can also go to the public hot springs pool to be warm, even in winter. Each room offers thirteen varieties of free soft drinks.

The spa is just one of the features of each Banyan Tree hotel. Banyan Tree Nanjing Garden Expo has six such treatment rooms and the zen-like design relaxes as soon as you step in. The rock wall made of mine ore at the front desk is both a feature and a decoration, in line with the theme of the entire hotel. Experience special treatment using the innovative tropical rain and dew spa facilities, as well as Nanjing Yuhua tea.



TIPS

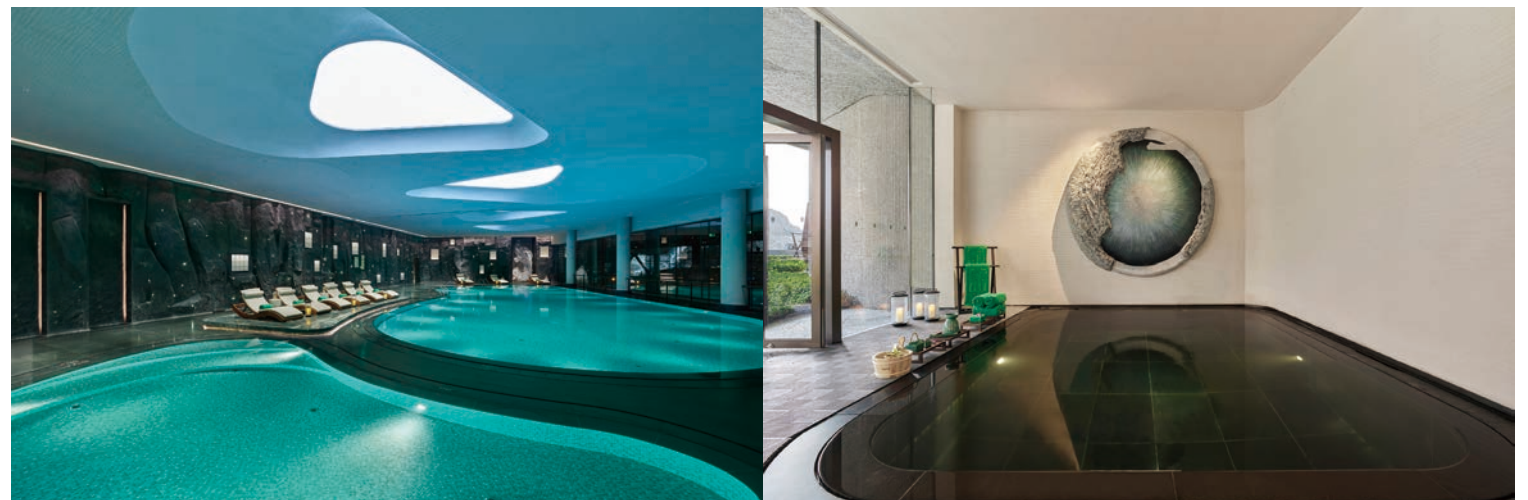
Nearby tourist attractions

The hotel is located within Jiangsu Garden Expo Park.

How to book

Telephone: 025-8713 9999

Email: Reservations-Nanjing@banyantree.com



Ah, the luxury of soaking in a pool of steaming water from the nearby hot springs, as you gaze up at the stars covering the night sky. Heavenly! Right?



Is It a Museum or a Hotel?

The Ruralation Museum Hotel in Tangshan stood out from nearly 800 projects around the world recently, when it won the Best Luxury Hotel at the 17th American “Hotel Design” magazine award ceremony in 2021, the first Chinese hotel to win this honor. You deserve the chance to find out why it was so.

Located in the eastern foothills of Purple Mountain in the outer suburbs of Nanjing, Nanjing Tangshan Hot Springs are well-known at home and abroad. In the early 1990s, the 600,000 year old “Nanjing Ape Man” skull (*Homo erectus nankinensis*) was found there, and so Tangshan-Fangshan National Geopark, with the themes of Tangshan Ape Man Cave, geological profiles, hot springs and Neogene volcanoes (late tertiary period), was established.

Getting there

Some 50 minutes by car or taxi, the hotel is about 30 kilometers from Nanjing Railway Station or Nanjing South Railway Station. Nanjing Lukou Airport is 60 kilometers away, which will take 70 minutes by car.

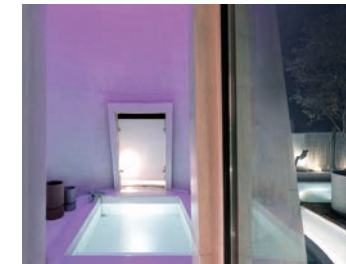


Spa Resort Near Prehistoric Ruins

The Ruralation Museum Hotel is located in Tangshan Homo Erectus Site Park, in an abandoned quarry beside the Nanjing Homo Erectus Site Museum. The exposed cliff walls of the mine have become the natural barrier and a rough backdrop to the building. The mountains around the quarry have undergone ecological challenges in recent years, and have therefore undergone restoration and emergency management.

The impressive hotel is built of local stone and the binding white “cement” was excavated during the laying of the foundations. Inspired by the Tangshan Geopark geology and the mysterious Tangshan Ape Man, Ruralation Muse-

Under chimney-like roofs, each room has its own hot spring pool.



um Hotel creates a place with a sense of history, allowing us to feel the evolution of nature over the march of time. This hot springs resort hotel has 39 rooms in five categories; classic courtyard rooms, courtyard villas, family villas, mountain view villas and VIP custom villas. High-class facilities include Chinese and Western restaurants, meeting and multi-function venues, library, design exhibition hall, gym, meditation space, grass covered activity area and outdoor swimming pool.

Under chimney-like roofs, each room has its own hot spring pool. While so luxurious and relaxing to soak in steaming hot-springs water and admire the night sky, the daytime sky is often an azure blue.

Through a long corridor to the cave-like front hall, the hotel entrance seems ceremonial; it feels like you are being pulled back to an era before modern humans walked the earth. Eighteen steps, seemingly made of light, further strengthen a feeling of space and a change of time when entering. Above the spacious rotunda lobby, a colorful web woven with hemp ropes allows space for the visitor to view the clear

sky.

Your palate is going to be tempted, teased and fulfilled. The hotel offers Huaiyang, Zhejiang and Jiangsu boutique dishes, selected coffee, and hand-made desserts, as well as the chef’s selection of “creative cuisine without borders.” An important part of the immersive experience is the hotel set-menu dinner, inspired by Michelin star chefs, presenting new-concept fusion dishes, drawing on local ingredients and infused by the atmosphere of Tangshan’s surrounding stones and hot springs. Eleven dishes include “Tangshan clouds and fog,” with potted, golden-pumpkin cheese salad, and secret flame-grilled beef cooked on a drilled-wood fire. Other romantic delicacies do more than feed you, until you feel that you are taking part in a ceremony. The meal is not complete without the Tangshan craft beer, made with water taken from the ancient springs.

TIPS

Nearby tourist attractions

The enthralling museums, Nanjing Homo Erectus Site and Jiangsu’s Tangshan-Fangshan National Geopark, are each about 800 meters away from the hotel; just 15-minute walk.

How to book

Telephone: 025 8509 1122

WeChat: Search for the public account “ruralation” and follow the prompts (Chinese only).



Hot Springs & Lakeside Vistas at Tianmu Lake

— Frank Hossack

Nestled among the gently rolling hills in the south of Jiangsu's Changzhou City lies a "jewel" which is both spectacular and sanctuary.



Getting there

Hantian Banshan Hot Spring Resort is 25 minutes by car from Liyang Railway Station.



Spectacular on account of its location looking down and around Tianmu Lake. And sanctuary for it being an escape into the world of wellness, hot springs and rejuvenation. Hantian Banshan Hot Spring Resort is this jewel in the crown of attractions surrounding the national 5A-level scenic spot that is Tianmu Lake. In China, size is everything. And so, part of the reason for the resort's occupying of the royal gems' top spot is its 4,000 mu of space. Just as well there are complimentary golf carts on hand to transports guests around the complex which has a forest coverage of 95%.

Spread over this are no less than five hotels offering a total of more than 800 guest rooms. Also therein, the Banshan Hentique Peninsula Villa, whereby 60 large private villas offer two and three bedroom secluded escapes each with their own plunge pool. But those are going to set you back 4-5,000 yuan a night.

Most people though prefer the more communal hot spring experience. Hantian boasts 69 plunge pools, which is a lot by any hot spring resort's standards. And setting some kind of other record is 3.8-kilometer depth from where the hot waters originate.

In addition to the natural minerals contained in hot waters generated by our planet's geothermal activity, many pools are in addition filled with health giving nutrients, some through a cooperation Nanjing University of Chinese

Medicine. And some not so, such as those with a dose of milk or red wine therein.

And the dedicated children's hot spa pool, complete with slide and masses of those multi-colored plastic balls the little ones love so much. Except here they're floating.

Then there are the other attractions therein. Among them, the open-air Peninsula Cafe comprising a European-style, pastoral wooden house accompanied by a 300-square-meter terrace. Overlooking the lake, the cafe has attracted good reviews on TripAdvisor (although bug spray during the



warmer months is a must) and, when Jiangsu Glimpses visited on a cold misty winter morning, it was even then also well patronized.

It's the kind of place where people leave their phones in their room before heading over with a good book in hand. And while that is obviously a good thing in general, it also speaks volumes as to the power of the hot spring spas overlooking Tianmu Lake.

TIPS

Nearby tourist attractions

Huli Mountain Area, Longing Island and Chinese Tea Island all form the Tianmu Lake Landscape Park, about 15 minutes by taxi from the resort.

How to book

Telephone: 0519-87178888



Meet the City Center “Prehistoric” Open-air Spa

— Justin Jiang

The book “Dinosaur Empire” by American artist, James Gurney, tells the story of explorers encountering an undiscovered paradise. On this lost island, deep canyons, cascading waterfalls and tranquil lakes are surrounded by verdant forests. People and dinosaurs live in harmony, enjoying themselves, wandering in the beautiful lost world.



Getting there
By car or taxi, the hotel is about 8 kilometers from Changzhou Railway Station and Changzhou North Railway Station, taking about 20 minutes.

Back in reality, James Gurney’s world view of this “harmonious coexistence of humans and dinosaurs” in the book was the design inspiration for the Changzhou Dinosaur Valley Hot Spring Hotel. Designers from Japan, Canada, Germany and China’s Taiwan have made this place into one of the few prehistoric themed hot spring resort centers in China.

With open-air hot springs, stone pavilions, small bridges and flowing water, the hotel is a real paradise located in the city. Hidden in amongst the lush greenery, there are nearly 40 open-air pools of different sizes at the hotel, and each offers a degree of privacy. The Southeast Asian style of the garden layout makes it both classical and romantic. Dino-

Here, the sky is the ceiling, while the immersive scene blends together. A huge stegosaurus sculpture looms over, accompanied by the 3D effect of trees, flowers and streams, and the sound of bird song.

saur-themed pools, pools with skin-nibbling fish, romantic couple pools; each has its own characteristics. While in the hot-spring waters, you can close your eyes to rest or chat with companions, just like being in a paradise.

The hot waters here are drawn from the Triassic strata at a depth of over 2,000 meters, from a time some 250 million years ago, while the water temperature exceeds 55 degrees Celsius all year round. The waters are also extremely rich in minerals, especially rare strontium and metasilicic acid, exceeding international medical thermal mineral standards.

The largest hot spring pool in the hotel is called “Dragon Pool.” Here, the sky is the ceiling, while the immersive scene blends together. A huge stegosaurus sculpture looms over, accompanied by the 3D effect of trees, flowers and streams, and the sound of bird song. Every weekend, the hotel invites resident singers to perform on the water stage, each performer bringing a different feeling to the guests.

Red wine pool, petal pool, aloe pool and milk pool are special pools prepared by the hotel for female guests. In addition, there are private pools that provide separate and private space, and artificially created cave-like saunas are also of interest. All together, Changzhou Dinosaur Valley Hot Spring Hotel offers a unique leisure and cultural experience.



TIPS

Nearby tourist attractions

Dino Water Town is 400 meters from the hotel, about a six-minute walk.
China Dinosaur Park, 800 meters from the hotel, is about a 15-minute walk.

How to book

Telephone: 0519-8988 8889

Hot Spring Views Mountains Amidst a Sea of Clouds

— Justin Jiang

Between the Nanshan Bamboo Sea and the Yushui Hot Springs, Liyang Yushui Bamboo Valley Hotel is located to take maximum advantage of both sides of the valley. The view is so wide, it feels that you can see thousands of kilometers, while the scene of clouds, lakes and mountains is unobstructed.

Getting there

By car or taxi, the hotel is about 26 kilometers from Liyang Station, taking about 39 minutes.

The hotel has fifty villas, each with its own hot spring pool and a swimming pool. The villas can also be rented as 120 individual rooms. Standing on the balcony of the hotel, you can admire the nearby bamboo forests, or in the distance, watch the sunset and a sea of clouds.

The layout of each room is leisurely and elegant; every flower and scene is very poetic, especially the landscaping on the balcony. Just as a sparrow is a small bird, but still is complete, each room has everything you need, and also comes with Japanese-style decor. Sitting on the balcony, facing the bamboo sea, drinking tea and enjoying the view, is one of the main reasons for guests to check in. The modern room nevertheless also has an ancient simplicity, with a mottled effect caused by bamboo in either the morning light or the sunset. It is quite zen-like.

Then there is the hotel's outdoor infinity pool, which overlooks the entire valley. Winter and summer swimmers alike will definitely love this. The mountain spectacle continues from the hotel's fitness center, where panoramic floor-to-ceiling windows provide unobstructed views of the outdoors. The hotel's cuisine focuses on mountain delicacies, fresh and organic, while the locally obtained fish with bamboo shoots is not to be missed. Invite friends to enjoy a delicious afternoon tea surrounded by the green mountains and the swaying bamboo sea. In the evening, have a drink with friends in the hotel's Starlight bar, seating up to 22 people, and offering a variety of soft drinks, and many alcoholic beverages, such as cocktails, liquor and wines.

For a different bathing experience, Tianmu Lake Yushui Hot Springs is adjacent to the hotel and it only takes a few minutes to walk there from the main entrance of the hotel. Making even a bleak winter seem a little

more vibrant, the Nanshan Bamboo Sea Scenic Area next to the hotel is a wonderful tourist destination. The hotel also provides an on-call electric personalized shuttle service, and can take guests to any place within the hotel or to nearby restaurants for dinner.

TIPS

Nearby tourist attractions

Nanshan Bamboo Sea Scenic Area is about 800 meters away from the hotel, about 15 minutes walk.

How to book

Telephone: 0519-8798 7222

Quiet Spring Resort amid Sea of Bamboo

— Justin Jiang

Located in Yangxian National Tourism Resort, Yixing, Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province, Yixing Futao Hotel is only a few kilometers from the famous Yixing Bamboo Sea Scenic Area, "the prime bamboo sea in East China."

Standing on the balcony of any guest room, you can see the beautiful Yangxian Lake set into the glorious mountain terrain. The hotel is designed and decorated with locally abundant bamboo; chandeliers made from the material in the lobby, surrounded by a unique bamboo decor, create an aura of leisure space. A must-see hotel for foreigners from nearby towns and places further afield, it is the perfect vacation destination.

Villas, lake-view suites, family rooms, mountain-view rooms, and others of many different styles are the resort's main features. Two-story villas contain three large bedrooms, suitable for large families or small groups. A terrace on the second floor of the villa is also a quality space to enjoy the surrounding scenery and enjoy leisure time.

Other facilities include tea room, gym, games room, KTV, children's

playground, and much more.

Providing the spa waters is the hot spring near Yangling in the Yangxian Ecological Tourism Zone in Yixing, drawn from over 2,000 meters underground. The water is clear, and rich in trace elements such as radon, metasilicic acid, zinc, strontium and manganese. The radon and metasilicic acid content is at the national water quality standard for physical therapy, and makes the skin smooth after soaking, leaving you feeling refreshed.

Some 39 hot spring pools make up the hotel's hot spring area, of which 36 are open air, each with different characteristics and surrounded by the beautiful natural bamboo forest. There is a dining area, a spring origin area, couples' pools and a parent-child area, all perfectly meeting the needs of visitors.



Getting there

By car or taxi, the hotel is about 17 kilometers from Yixing Station, taking about 25 minutes.



TIPS

Hot springs opening hours: 13:00 - 22:00

Hot spring fees: 68 yuan/person for hotel guests, 98 yuan/person for non-residents

Nearby tourist attractions

Zhanggong Cave Scenic Area is 7 kilometers from the hotel, about 10 minutes by car.

Yixing Bamboo Sea Scenic Area, 6 kilometers away from the hotel, about 9 minutes by car.

How to book

Tel: 0510-68729999

Rhythm of Jiangsu's Waters Meets Thailand

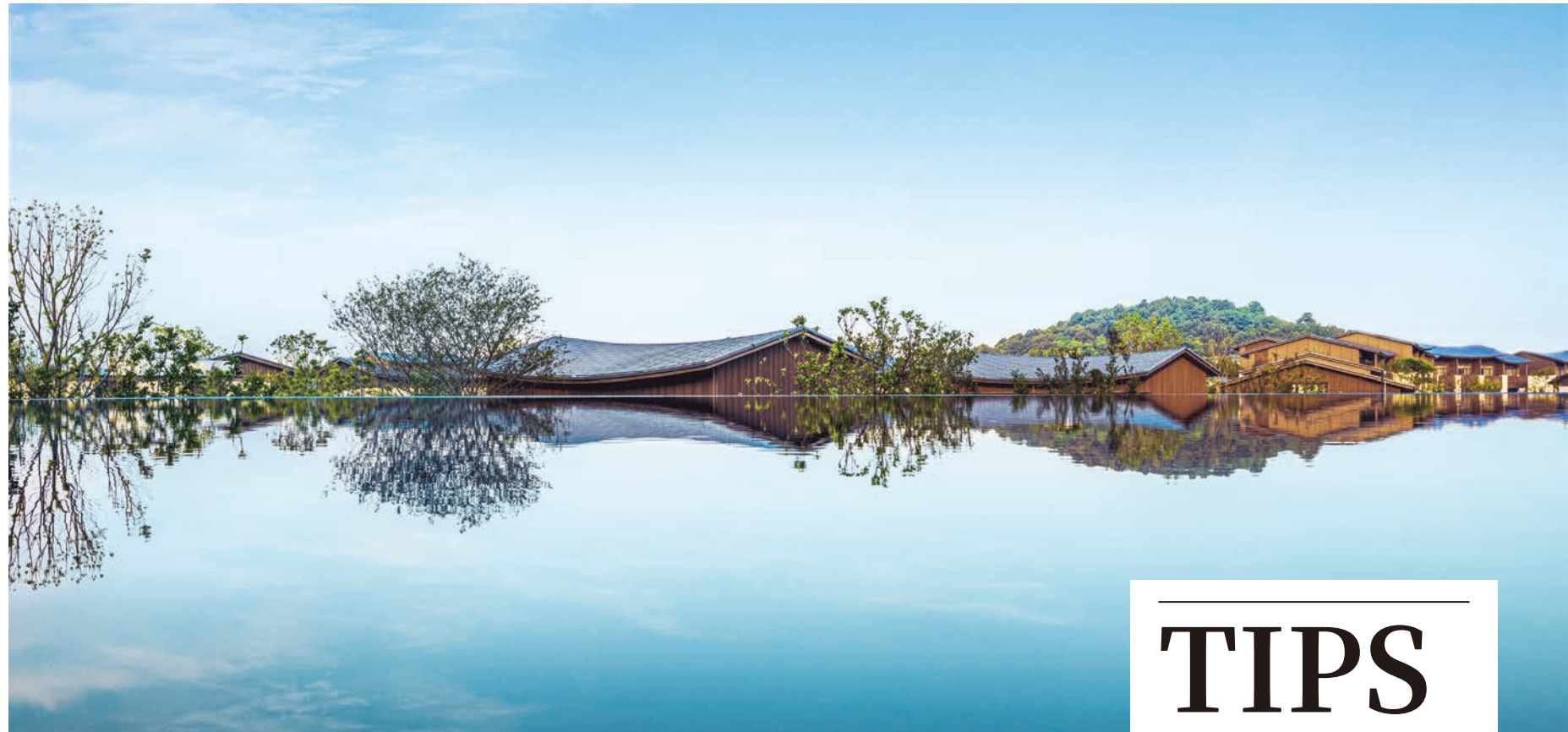
— Justin Jiang

Suzhou Shushan Village has become a favorite rural tourism destination because of its Cuiguan pears, tea, and bayberry. Nestled here is Dusit Thani Wellness Resort, surrounded by gentle waters and green mountains.



Getting there

By car or taxi, the hotel is about 25 kilometers from Suzhou Railway Station and Suzhou North Railway Station, taking about 30 minutes. It's about 10 kilometers away from Suzhou Park Station, about 23 minutes by car.



The charm of Jiangsu's waterways and style of Thailand are perfectly integrated in this hotel, creating an urban vacation destination that integrates mountain nature, history, culture, and the healthiness of hot springs. Surrounded by beautiful mountains and hot springs, the hotel presents the aesthetics of the famous Suzhou gardens in its design. From a lakeside retreat to a single-family garden villa, the hotel has a total of 166 rooms. Each room in the hotel has its own hot spring pool. Relaxing in your courtyard behind the room, you can enjoy the amazing garden and the lake view. Surrounded by mountains and rivers, you can rest your body and mind, a perfect blend of peace and harmony. The hotel's lake is also a paradise for

wild animals, and egrets and wild ducks are frequent visitors. From a natural geothermal hot spring arising from nearly 1,300 meters below the mountain, the water is rich in various trace elements and metasilicic acid, providing guests with a pure hot springs health experience, and allowing the body to be in harmony with the natural elements. The 15 hot spring pools are surrounded by picturesque scenery, and abound in spacious and comfortable seating areas. Thai style is of course an essential part of the hotel. As part of that, you can experience traditional Thai massage techniques to relieve and stretch the whole body. The exquisite techniques of pressure and stretching movements ease muscle fatigue and enhance the

flexibility of the body. While the the cuisine of many nations is on offer, genuine Thai food is the main delight here. Have a drink in the hotel's lounge to prepare your taste buds. In very private spaces, the bar serves a variety of champagne and wines. Professional staff will also make a variety of selected Chinese and Western snacks to meet the different needs of guests. Those who like to get up early for exercise in the morning might also enjoy a climb up Dayang Mountain along a trail not far from the hotel. At the top of the mountain is an ancient temple with a history of more than a thousand years, the Yunquan Temple. Go at lunch time and enjoy a vegetarian meal in the restaurant.

TIPS

Nearby tourist attractions

Yunquan Temple is about 900 meters from the hotel, which is about 15 minutes walk. Dayangshan National Forest Park, about 6 kilometers from the hotel, is about 10 minutes by car. Suzhou Paradise Forest Water World is about 6 kilometers from the hotel, taking about 10 minutes by car.

How to book

Tel: 0512-6269 8888





Fun among the Pines

at Donghai Forest Spa Resort

— Frank Hossack



The first order of business for most people upon arriving at Donghai Forest Spa Resort and after checking in is a drink.

Not any old drink. Outside the complex lies a well; its geothermal waters come up from a depth of 2,000 meters underground.

In the distance, an extinct volcano reminds as to why we are here; to feel our planet's geology and and the lava of its mantle at work.

Sprawling over 10,000 mu (670 hectares) an hour to the west of Lianyungang City itself, the Qingsongling Forest Park is home to a multitude of nature-based attractions, star among which is the Donghai Forest Spa Resort.

Eight years in the making, the resort consists of a 350-room hotel, spa leisure club, outdoor forest spa, large swimming pool, children's play park, lavender garden and farmland. Nearby are also a host of options for outdoor leisure and entertainment. The resort is in fact not just a spa destination, it is also ideal for conferences and corporate team



building activities.

As for the spa itself, each day 3,000 tons of nutrient-rich water each day, courtesy of Mother Nature, emerge from the resort's depths. More than 60 trace elements therein promote vasodilation, can lower blood pressure, speed up the metabolism and enhance digestion. The waters, with a PH value of 8.69, can also have a positive effect on arthritis, asthma, gynecological diseases and skin disorders.

With a forest coverage of 92%, the pine trees enveloping the entire resort are a top attraction in themselves. Many European or North American readers shall find themselves reminded of home.

The trees themselves and their unmistakable scent are the backdrop to a truly unique spa experience, particularly in the dead of winter. From the changing area, walk in your swimsuit through the trees along paths made from old grind stones to choose your own particular spa. Shall it be one of the more traditional plunge pools containing Traditional Chinese Medicine or are you willing to push the boat out and try the ginger or red-wine infused pools? Donghai has 30-plus pools to choose from.

In the warmer months, perhaps a snooze in one of the many hammocks strung between two pine trees nearby before taking the plunge. The hammocks may not be so beckoning in winter but in exchange, this is the time of year when the magic happens.

Given its location, the fresh air all around provides for an incomparable night-time view of the stars in the heavens, while the steam from the hot waters waft you by. The fact that winter often provides the clearest skies combines with the concept of outdoor bathing in sub-zero temperatures to make for an experience that is almost out

of this world.

A very short walk from the hotel and spas, you shall find a two-bedroom, secluded VIP private retreat, with thatched roofs and its own hot plunge pools is as little as just over 1,000 yuan per night.

Once submerged in the health-giving waters, novice winter spa goers may fear the moment when they must eventually get out.

But there is nothing to worry about. With your innards thoroughly warmed, exiting the waters and into winter's bite is almost unnoticeable. In fact, some even will not even bother to don their robe for the walk back to the changing area.

Afterward, a thoroughly deep sleep is in store. And a needed one, for on day two, many will look to fill their day with exhilarating activities of one sort or another, and all among the never-ending pine trees.

This is where we find an exceptionally-cute mini wooden rollercoaster for the little ones, a 600-meter go karting track for those a little older, and for the grown ups who are still very much young at heart, a five-kilometer dirt track on which to test themselves driving four-wheel, petrol-driven, off-road buggies.

Elsewhere, a small archery range sits beside a firing range equipped with large-

scale futuristic compressed-air gatling guns. If that's a bit aggressive for some, there are also 150 "Starry Sky Tents," that are essentially plastic bubbles, offering both protection from the elements and a view of the stars above.

Worth a final mention is also the local cuisine. As much is possible, produce for resort guests is bred and grown on site; during low season, excesses of strawberries, grapes, water melons, a large array of vegetables and even peanuts are sold outside in local markets.

TIPS

Donghai Forest Hot Spring Resort is a 45-minute drive from Donghai County Railway Station, from where the Xuzhou East Railway Station hub is 52 minutes away by high-speed train. From Nanjing, the resort is a four-and-a-half-hour drive.

To visit when the skies are overcast would be to miss out on the greatest opportunity for smog-bound city dwellers. Try to plan a trip for when there is a good chance of clear skies offering pollution-free views of the heavens.

A WINTER TOUR to the PICTURESQUE ANCIENT WATER TOWNS in Jiangsu

—Geng Chunxiao

If you come to Jiangsu to enjoy the winter, you should not miss the ancient water towns. The white walls and black tiles, small bridges and flowing water, the old streets and alleys, all make the towns so charming in the winter. After a snow, the town is just as beautiful as a Chinese ink painting.

Walking along the banks of water lanes, across the arch bridges, and besides the white walls and black tiles in Zhouzhuang ancient town in Suzhou, you will find a “living ancient town” with primitive simplicity, still embracing cooking smoke, wild country and fishing songs. Sailing in a hand-cranked boat through the winding water lanes of Tongli town in Suzhou to appreciate the scenery on the bank from the water, you will feel like entering a scroll of painting, seemingly more poetic in the winter. The Huishan ancient town in Wuxi, where the cultural sentiment of filial piety and respect for ancestors of Jiangsu people is concentrated, will wash away troubles from your heart. The unique

clusters of ancient houses in Yaowan ancient town in Xuzhou, located in the arms of the Grand Canal, will catch your eyes. Sitting in a teahouse, you may enjoy a piece of canal Qinshu (storytelling in the form of singing, with musical accompaniment) by which the performers interpret the unique stories in the ancient town with their skillful singing and rich emotions. While walking through the narrow streets and alleys of Xijindu Ancient Street in Zhenjiang, if you reach out to touch the time-honored layers of bricks and stones, you will feel as if you were having an encounter with the thousands of years of historical changes. If there happens to be snow falling on the ancient town, then please wait for a poetic traveling!

An Ancient Town that's both Village and Water Town

—Justin Jiang

Zhouzhuang ancient town in Suzhou is an authentic water town, with wharves, arch bridges, ancient walls and black-tiled buildings between the canals.

Take a traditionally-rowed boat along winding canals and watch as the shore scenery passes by. Stroll through Zhenfeng Twelve Square to see the twelve original examples of intangible cultural heritage, thus taking simple and mellow memories of the water town with you.

Other must-see attractions include Shen Hall, Zhang Hall, Ancient Stage, Zhouzhuang Museum, and Zhouzhuang Double Bridge, showing the history of Zhouzhuang. Of course, don't forget to try Wansanhu cooked pork trotters, grandmother tea, and various snacks, such as rice cakes, all of which are full of the unique taste of the town.

About five kilometers from Zhouzhuang ancient town is Xiangcun Qizhuang, surrounded on three sides by lakes and nestled beside the river. The Hefengli restaurant in the village uses the freshest

local ingredients, while in the “Time Show” home-style hotel, enamel cups, old desk lamps, and suitcases from the past evoke the sense of local people's lives of decades ago.

Drink a cup of tea in Xiangcun's study, take a walk in the fields and learn to make handmade cakes from the old ladies of the village. This slow life, known as “returning to the garden and living in the garden,” will become addictive!

The opening hours for Zhouzhuang ancient town are 7:00 - 21:00, which includes Shen Hall, Zhang Hall and Zhouzhuang Museum. The Ancient Stage is open from 8:00 - 16:30.

Xiangcun Qizhuang is open all day



Qizhuang Ancient Town

About 5 kilometers from Zhouzhuang Ancient Town



Tongli

A Poetic Ancient Town

—Geng Chunxiao



Ancient Town of Tongli

Opening hours:
8:00-17:15, free of charge before
8:00 and after 17:15, but the tourist
attractions in the town are closed

Tongli National Wetland Park

Opening hours: 8:30-16:30

Tongli town in Suzhou is surrounded by five lakes which becomes even more poetic in the winter. In the town, the three parallel rivers divide the town into seven small islands connected by ancient bridges, making it a real picture of “small bridges and flowing waters.”

When you visit Tongli in winter, the Tuisi Garden is the place to go - the only World Cultural Heritage in the ancient towns of Jiangnan (regions south of the Yangtze River), where you will feel a full sense of happiness in the warmth of the winter sun. In the Pearl Pagoda scenic spot, you should listen to the Tanci (storytelling to the accompaniment of stringed instruments) of *Pearl Pagoda*, a play of the Qing Dynasty about the love story of Sun Fangqing and Chen Cui'e. And then you may enjoy a cup of heart-warming fragrant tea in the South Garden Teahouse.

Between Tongli and Zhouzhuang ancient towns, there is a Tongli National Wetland Park. There are rivers and ditches, lakes and marshes scattered all over the place, surrounded by rows of metasequoia trees and camphor trees, as well as large areas

of dense bamboo forests and various rare plants. Come here in winter and you will get the chance to encounter migratory birds from Russia's Siberia, north China's Inner Mongolia, as well as the northeast and northwest areas of China. Falcated ducks, spot-billed ducks, green-winged ducks, pintails... Thousands of anseriformes birds live and forage here, presenting a unique scene of the wetland park.



Huishan Ancient Town

A Potential World Cultural Heritage Site

—Justin Jiang

Even on weekdays, Huishan ancient town in Wuxi is never short of visitors. It not only concentrates the Chinese cultural complex of filial piety and reverence for ancestors, but also can wash away troubles from your heart.

Huishan has many cultural relics and monuments, including ancient streets, gardens, temples, springs, academies, poetry societies, ancestral halls and many other traditional cultural resources, spanning thousands of years throughout history.

Built more than 600 years ago, the Jichang Garden is located in the ancient town of Huishan. It was built by a retired official who returned to Wuxi during the Ming Dynasty. “Jichang,” as the name implies, means that people should be happy. Therefore, when you come to such an elegant garden, you should let go of your boredom and enjoy the classical life in a quiet place.

The streets of the ancient town are also full of traces of intangible cultural

heritage, and the studios of the intangible cultural heritage inheritors of Huishan clay figurine and Wuxi fine embroidery are also located here. The Huishan clay figurines are small and cute, and are popular for tourists. The fine embroidery is done by dividing a single thread into 70 to 80 pieces, which gives it a high artistic value.

The Ancient Ancestral Hall Cluster is also worth visiting. The family culture connected by blood is one of the traditional Chinese cultures, and the ancestral hall is the place where each family worships their ancestors. Currently, Huishan ancient town is applying for “Jiangnan Ancient Water Towns” World Cultural Heritage together with more than ten other ancient towns in Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Shanghai.



Huishan Ancient Town
Opening hours: 8:30-16:30

Jichang Garden
Opening hours: 8:30-16:00

Poetry & Foreign Trade Amid Classical Architecture

—Frank Hossack



Getting there

Xijindu Ancient Street is a 10-minute taxi ride from Zhenjiang Railway Station and a 20-minute ride from Zhenjiang South Railway Station.

The crested letters, “VR,” adorn the former British Consulate’s wall in Zhenjiang. They stand for Victoria Reign, from Britain’s then Queen Victoria. As a great place from which to begin a visit to Zhenjiang, they are also just a hint at a lot more history to come, from Chinese dynasties dating back to when William the Conqueror sat on the English throne. Xijindu Ancient Street in Zhenjiang has been in continuous use for 1,000 years. Previously called the Suanshan Dock, Marco Polo is said to have landed here on his way from Yangzhou. The ferry remained an important Yangtze River crossing until well into the 1980s and its final closure in 2003. As National 4A-class tourist attractions, the Xijindu historical and cultural blocks are located in the northwestern part of Zhenjiang city where the Yangtze River

and the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal intersect. As such, Xijindu soon became a very important transportation hub. Yes, it’s a tourist site today, but it’s one where Zhenjiang cultural relics and heritage are preserved intact to the largest possible extent. But something should be pointed out before buying a train ticket to Zhenjiang. Don’t come here expecting to find a ferry, as in a large ship to transport you across the river. For “ferry” in this instance refers to the entire area around the Yangtze River’s southern crossing point in Zhenjiang. And being around for a millennium means it has grown and shrunk, been built and raised with the ebb and flow of political power and the comings and goings of dynasties and foreign influence. Still with the terminology, foreign visitors to Xijindu might also wonder at the common usage of the word “marina.” You won’t find any expensive yachts in Big Marina, Small Marina or the Yushan Marina. For these were the ancient times, and thus in reality these were the docks of Zhenjiang. Further compounding the confusion is another former moniker; the Jinling Ferry. And we have Tang Dynasty poet, Zhang Hu to thank for that. Tang Dynasty poetry is considered by many to be among the greatest in all of Chinese history. Zhang made use of the era’s “seven and four” style in his poem, “On Jinling Ferry”, in which four lines are comprised by seven words each. In this instance, Jin-

TIPS

Nearby tourist attractions

The former British Consulate, which is now a principal building in the Zhenjiang Museum complex, is today also listed as a Major Site Protected for Its Historical and Cultural Value at the National Level. Admission is free all year round. The former residence of the celebrated American author, Pearl S. Buck, whose book, “The Good Earth,” based on her experience with local Zhenjiang people growing up, won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1932. It went on to be one of the most popular novels of the 20th century.

ling is not a reference to one of the former names for Nanjing but instead refers to the Runzhou District of Zhenjiang, is the part of city around Xijindu.

*I lived in the pavilion in Jinling
Homesickness has tortured me
the whole evening
Sun is falling while Moon is rising
Now lights in Guazhou can be seen*

Typical for Tang Dynasty poetry, the nostalgia Zhang expresses reflects his sadness at staying a night at Jinling Ferry in around the year 820 C.E., thus also illustrating the longevity of the ferry and its import, even then. Bringing our story more up date, visitors to this part of Zhenjiang will also be struck by the colonial influence of foreign powers. With Zhenjiang as the only point where the north-south and east-west waterways converge, it was key to exerting influence. By 1903, Zhenjiang was second only to Shanghai in terms of the numbers of foreign trade ships, with no less than 11 countries’ steamships serving the needs of international commerce. Among the first were the oil giants. Texaco, Mobil and Asiatic Petroleum all opened branch offices in Xijindu around the turn of the century. As a subsidiary of Shell, the Asiatic Petroleum office is now the Zhenjiang Folk Art Museum, on Changjiang Road near the ferry car park.



Celebrating a Chinese-style New Year at Yaowan Ancient Town

—Geng Chunxiao



Yaowan Ancient Town
Opening hours: 8:30-17:00

Yaowan is the most beautiful one among hundreds of bays along the Grand Canal. Yaowan ancient town is located in the southwest corner of Xinyi City, Xuzhou, Jiangsu Province. It is surrounded by water on three sides, with the Grand Canal to the west and Luoma Lake to the east. In winter, the ancient town of Yaowan is increasingly gentle and quiet, like an ancient ink landscape painting. The unique cluster of ancient dwellings in Yaowan is eye-catching. It has both the stability and decency of northern architecture, and the elegance and dexterity of southern architecture, being characterized by curved streets and lanes, deep houses and large courtyards. The streets of the ancient town are paved with blue flagstones and lined with shops. The flowing water go around the city whereas the stone bridges and small boats remain unchanged. Sitting in a tea house, you can enjoy a piece of the canal Qinshu (storytelling in the form of singing, with musical accompaniment) by which the performers tell the unique life stories in the ancient town with their skillful singing and rich emotions. When you are stepping on the blue flagstones, walking along the old streets and crossing the ancient bridges, the rhythm of the Qinshu will echo in your ears from time to time. As the Spring Festival approaches, the atmosphere of New Year is getting stronger in the ancient town of Yaowan, which is located at the bend of the Grand Canal. Colorful performances, Chinese style parade, New Year’s bazaar, dragon and lion dance... all these traditional folk activities are performed in a brand new way to start the carnival of the Year of the Tiger. Winter is also a time to taste Yaowan boat food. You can invite a couple of friends to meet at a boat restaurant, enjoy the meal of steaming hot rice and fresh river food casserole, and have cordial talks. You can also try the mung bean flavor alcoholic drinks, sweet oil, osmanthus cakes and other snacks, every bite of which is a treat to your taste buds. Nothing is more enjoyable than a small reunion with your families and friends by savoring a bite of seasonal river food from a warm pot.

A bowl of Jiangsu-cuisine Soup

—Samantha

A great winter appetizer

Winter cuisine starts with
a bowl of steaming soup,
dispelling the chill
and leaving a warm feeling
all over the body.

Soup - Famous Dishes >> >

Mutton soup



⤴ Xuzhou Mutton Soup

Winter is a good time to eat mutton, and mutton soup is a must for almost every household. Lamp spine hot pot, mutton stew, roast whole lamb, boiled mutton... A wide variety of mouth-watering lamb delicacies can make you forget the cold of winter.

In a mutton restaurant in Xuzhou, you can see customers everywhere holding a bowl of mutton soup with their left hands and a pancake with their right. Hold a bowl of hot Xuzhou mutton soup, pick up a piece of mutton that is tender and soft with your chopsticks and put it into your mouth, you will feel a burning hot sensation at the tip of your tongue yet satisfied with the tasty and nourishing meat. Xuzhou people have also created local famous dishes such as mutton stewed with fish.

Suzhou people also love mutton and cook it well. In addition to the most widely known Cangshu Mutton, other dishes like Dongshan Boiled Mutton and Zhenze Mutton have their own distinctive flavors. To cook authentic Cangshu Mutton, barrels made of the cedar wood from the Qionglong mountain of Cangshu Town are mostly

used since the wood helps to remove the mutton smell when cooking. A pot of creamy colored and good-smell mutton soup is the essence of Cangshu Mutton. When cooking the mutton hot pot, put in the soup ingredients such as haggis, lamb blood and a handful of garlic leaves, you will find every bite a taste of heaven!



⤴ Suzhou Cangshu Mutton Soup



TIPS

Recommended restaurants

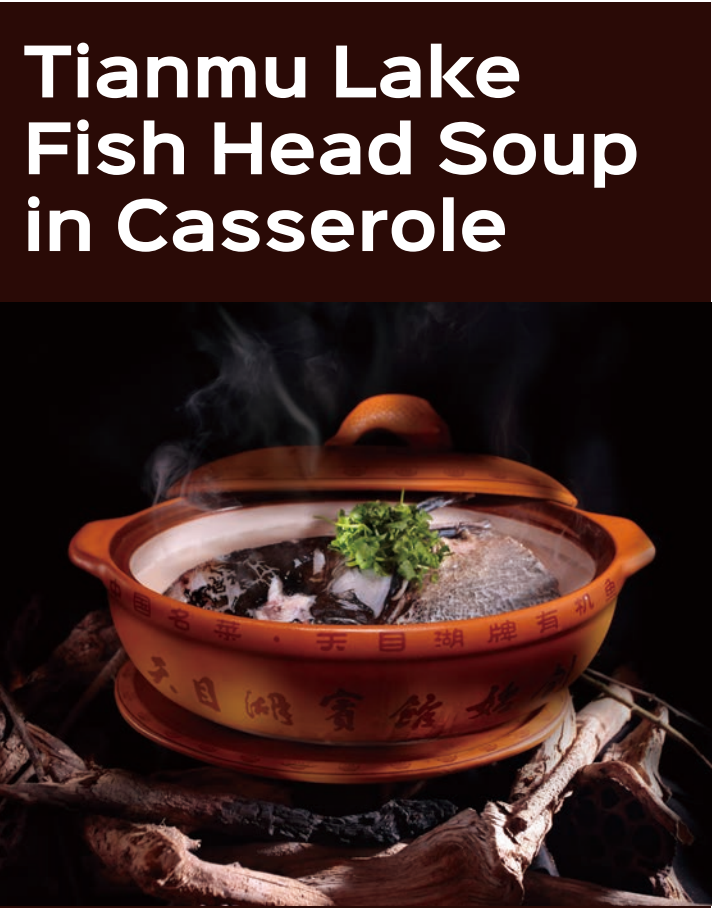
**Xuzhou Qibaisui
Mutton Soup Restaurant**

Address: No. 36, West Erhuan Road, Xuzhou City (50 meters to the southwest corner of Hubin Road and Erhuan Road)
Telephone: 0516-66620900

**Suzhou Dongfang
Mutton Restaurant**

Address: No. 80, Qionglong Road, Wuzhong District, Suzhou City
Telephone: 0512-66936769

Soup - Famous Dishes >> >



Tianmu Lake Fish Head in Casserole is cooked with the natural bighead carp from Tianmu Lake. It uses Tianmu Lake water as soup base and is made with unique cooking craft. The dish is fresh but not fishy, fat but not greasy. The beautiful mountainous Tianmu Lake boasts the green vegetation around the lake and sandy rather than silt lake bed. This unique natural environment has contributed to the clear and sweet water of Tianmu Lake, so the fish grown there has no earthy smell. For more than 40 years, Tianmu Lake fish head soup in casserole has not only been ranked as one of the “Top Ten Tastes of Changzhou,” but also the first choice of domestic and foreign tourists.

TIPS
Recommended restaurants

Tianmu Lake Hotel

Address: opposite to the gate of Tianmu Lake Scenic Area, West Huanhu Road, Liyang City, Changzhou City (directly opposite to Tianmu Lake Shanshui Garden)

Telephone: 0519-87168888

Wensi Tofu

Wensi Tofu has a history of more than 300 years. It is named after its creator Monk Wensi from the Tianning Temple in Yangzhou who made the soup with fresh tofu, needle mushrooms, black fungus and other ingredients. It was very tasty and popular among Buddhist believers who went to burn incense and worship the Buddha. There is no better example of knife work than Wensi Tofu. A piece of tofu, after being cut horizontally and vertically by a master chef, will be shredded into thousands of pieces with uniform thickness in a few minutes. Then, the pieces will be put in clear water before being cooked, looking like a Chinese landscape painting. Wensi Tofu tastes fresh and smooth in the mouth, with a long-lasting aftertaste.



TIPS
Recommended restaurants

Shangri-la Hotel Yangzhou

Address: No. 472 West Wenchang Road, Yangzhou
Telephone: 0514-85128888



Republican-period Nanjing Cuisine—Stewed Chicken

Stewed Chicken is a traditional dish of Jinling cuisine. It was once one of the four famous dishes of Nanjing, but nowadays it is rare to find in the market. The chicken thighs are boned and beaten to break the fiber for seasoning. Then, the seasoned mince is spread on the chicken, wrapped with whipped egg whites and fried on low heat to give it the white snowball appearance. Next, the simmered chicken is put into the chicken broth and stewed for one hour. Finally, the freshness of the broth is incorporated into the chicken, and the chicken floats on the surface of the broth with a mellow taste and crispy texture.



➤ Steamed pigeon eggs with chopped shrimps - the dish is extremely labor-intensive and uses the shrimps from Gaoyou Lake processed with complex cutting and stirring techniques. The dish looks beautiful with pigeon eggs and shrimps in delicate colors while tasting tender and juicy.

TIPS
Recommended restaurants

Jiangsu Restaurant **Address:** 255-1 Jianning Road, Nanjing City **Telephone:** 025-83136626

Soup - Famous snacks >> >



Nanjing Yuhuashi Sweet Dumplings

Nanjing Yuhuashi Sweet Dumpling was named so due to its resemblance to Nanjing Yuhua stones. The colorful desserts are created with an ingenious idea: adding cocoa powder, matcha powder, purple potato powder and pumpkin to the glutinous rice wrappers to allow the mixing of different colors and then hand-rolling them into unique Yuhuashi sweet dumplings, which are very appetizing.

TIPS

Recommended restaurants

Jinling Hotel
Address: No. 2 Hanzhong Road, Huaqiao Road Sub-district, Gulou District, Nanjing
Telephone: 025-84711888



Jingjiang Steam Buns Stuffed with Juicy Crab Spawn and Chicken Soup

Jingjiang Steam Buns Stuffed with Juicy Crab Spawn and Chick Soup are a traditional Jiangsu delicacy. The ingredients used are very delicate, with crab meat and crab spawn and original chicken soup as filling. The production process is quite exquisite. There are some tips for tasting the buns: Lift the bun gently and move it slowly; open the wrapper before sipping the soup.

TIPS

Recommended restaurants

Jingjiang Nanyuan Hotel
Address: No. 40 Middle Renmin Road, Jingjiang, Taizhou
Telephone: 0523-84987111



Xuzhou Spicy Soup

Evolved from the pheasant soup passed down 4,000 years ago, Xuzhou Spicy Soup is especially suitable for the cold winter months. The soup is made with chicken, pork patella, and pork shank, plus a large amount of ginger, shredded eel, gluten, salt, and the right amount of black pepper, tasting extremely delicious and refreshing.

➤ **The best match:** Bagu deep-fried stick, a “Chinese Famous Snack,” which has a history of more than 100 years in Xuzhou. Bagu, as the name implies, means eight strips of dough are combined and fried to make the crispy, delicious and charmingly shaped stick.



TIPS

Recommended restaurants
Xuzhou Lianglaifeng Restaurant

Address: No. 234 Pengcheng Road, Xuzhou City
Telephone: 0516-83907666



Interesting Folklore Activities in Jiangsu on Spring Festival

—Justin Jiang

The Chinese New Year or the Spring Festival is a traditional Chinese festival that has now become a global event. Dragon and lion dances, couplets and firecrackers, and delicious food are probably the most intuitive perceptions you have of Chinese New Year. It's true that most Chinese people participate in the above activities during the Spring Festival, but if you focus on a specific place in China, you will find some more interesting folklore activities during the festival.

In Jiangsu, people like to use lanterns to express their satisfaction and respect for the Spring Festival, whether it is the Nanjing Qinhuai Lantern Festival with a history of more than a thousand years, or the “pasta lanterns” made by villagers in Mazhuang, Xuzhou City, or the modern Changzhou Lantern Festival. The brightness and warmth represented by lanterns has always been the expectation of the Jiangsu people for the New Year. In addition to lanterns, people in various cities of Jiangsu also have their own special Spring Festival folklore. Villagers of Wansui town in Changzhou perform the 1,600-year-old “Wansui Monkey Lanterns” during the Spring Festival. People in Dongshan and Xukou towns in Suzhou bring out the statues of the “Warrior God” that are usually enshrined in temples and parade them along the road to pray for the residents. In Funing County of Yancheng, people gather in the square to perform shows and whip the clay ox to pray for a good harvest in the coming year. These special folk activities preserve the good expectations of the ancestors of Jiangsu for life, and inspire the contemporary Jiangsu people to better protect traditional culture and continue the cultural succession.

Suzhou Winter Wine



For Suzhou people, it is a tradition to drink winter wine on the winter solstice. When you open the bottle, it is full of the fragrance of osmanthus flowers. Clear and bright, the wine tastes sweet and silky. It feels like you are filled with the double scent of rice wine and flowers after drinking.

TIPS

Recommended restaurants

Yuandachang Store
Address: No. 93 Gongxiang, Suzhou City
Telephone: 0512-65226167



Brace Yourself for the Qinhuai Lantern Festival

—Frank Hossack

There are some things in life that you must do at least once. And if you live in Nanjing, the Lantern Festival in Fuzimiao is one such thing. Imagine an absolutely dazzling array of lights, showering boats, trees, a part of the city wall, bridges and buildings. Of course, many are lanterns in a traditional form, but with modern technology, LEDs are everywhere. But be prepared for wall-to-wall people!

Occurring on the fifteenth day of the new year in the lunar calendar, the Lantern Festival coincides with the full moon, and marks the end of the Spring Festival, although in our modern world people have returned to work about a week before this. A favorite time for young and old alike, eating out,

solving riddles, and dressing for the occasion, while as people are mostly outside the home, the streets will be busier than usual. While the focal point is Fuzimiao, the Confucius Temple in Qinhuai District, parks and gardens all over the city do their bit, so go for an amble just about anywhere. Being a festival, a special food is a must.



Tangyuan is a small ball made from glutinous rice, the sticky stuff, and filled with a paste such as sweet red bean, sesame, or even something similar to peanut butter. It can be boiled, fried or steamed, and it is commonly served in a bowl of sweet broth. The round shape of the balls and the bowls are believed to symbolize family togetherness, so eating tangyuan will bring family harmony, happiness, and luck in the year to come. Family dinners, presumably more joyful than usual, will feature this delicacy, and most restaurants will have it on the menu at this time.

The traditions have their roots over two millennia ago, but supposedly only became popular a little later when Emperor Ming, a proponent of Buddhism, saw that the Buddhist monks would decorate temples with lanterns on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month. This inspired him to tell all households, temples, and royal buildings to light lanterns on that evening. Thus, over time, it developed into a folk custom, and gradually expanded until it is the blazing spectacle we love today. Another possible origin is the ancient celebration of “the decreasing winter darkness” and the ability

to go out at night with the aid of lanterns. Indeed, for some people, to go for a walk holding a lantern is an essential part of the festival.

Of course, the ancient gods feature in many stories and legends connected to the festival. One such tale tells of a beautiful crane that flew from heaven down to earth. When it was hunted and killed by some villagers, the Jade Emperor in heaven was furious as the crane was his favorite. He planned to send a firestorm against the village on the fifteenth day of the lunar month. The emperor's daughter warned the people of her father's plan to destroy their village. The people were panic-stricken until a wise man from another village suggested that everyone should light street bonfires, hang red lanterns on their houses, and explode firecrackers for three days. On the fifteenth day, warriors sent down from heaven saw that the village was already blazing, and returned to heaven to report its destruction to the Jade Emperor. The village was saved, and now the traditions live on; well, except for the fireworks which are frowned on these days.

Nanjing's Fuzimiao is beckoning if you

want the ultimate experience of the Lantern Festival. Much more than just lanterns, the vista of light has become a social artistic expression. Images of birds, animals and traditional symbols abound.

Every year, people hasten to the area around Confucius Temple on the banks of the Qinhuai River to see what will feature this time. Turn a corner and perhaps a dragon of light awaits you. Around another bend might be a lion dance or a stilt walker. Food abounds in the huge variety of restaurants and takeout vendors, and you will also be tempted with many different beverages; a hot drink is just what you will need to stave off the cold night air.

Be warned! You will not be alone. This popular event is irresistible, and people come from all over Nanjing, and even surrounding towns, to be part of this glorious spectacle. The crowds that flood the area around Confucius Temple, the river, lanes and walkways, mean that movement is slow. But then who is in a hurry with so much to look at? Indeed, you may be carried along, armpit to armpit, trapped in what the locals call “people mountain, people sea,” which of course means massive crowds.



Getting there is not a problem these days, as Nanjing Metro Line 3 has Fuzimiao Station for maximum convenience. If a Didi car or a taxi is your preference, at times you will need to be extremely patient with demand being high later in the evening.

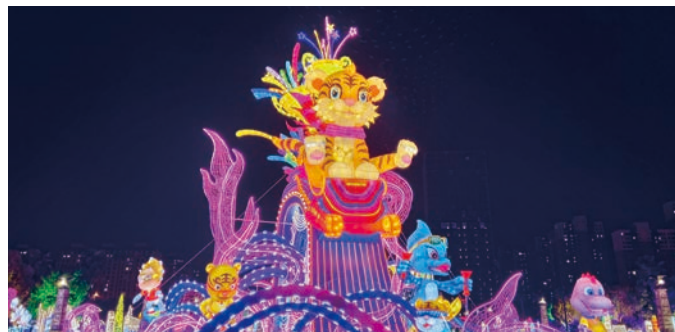


The Colorful Lanterns in Jiangsu Lighting Up Spring Festival

—Geng Chunxiao

At the year beginning, the plum blossoms will welcome the coming of spring, and Jiangsu people start preparing for the approaching Spring Festival. Their dazzling winter is lightened up by major lantern festivals.

Changzhou Lantern Festival



As a great event of Changzhou in winter, Changzhou Lantern Festival (CLF) has been held several times since 2014. Each year, as scheduled, it is open for free in late December and ends in April-May of the following year. This year's CLF, held in Dino Water Town of Changzhou Universal Dinosaur Park, will last until May 6, 2022.



Mazhuang Pasta Lanterns in Xuzhou

In the northeastern suburb of Xuzhou City, Jiangsu Province, the locals make lanterns with pasta, which are widely known as Mazhuang pasta lanterns. Every year during the Lantern Festival, villagers in Mazhuang make their own pasta lanterns and traditional paper lanterns for a show. The scenes on the festival are very lively, with dragon and lion dances, donkey driving, land boating, gong and drum beating, and other folk performances.

Celebrating Spring Festival

with Folklore Shows in Jiangsu

—Geng Chunxiao

In addition to a variety of lanterns throughout Jiangsu's "Happy Spring Festival," there is also a series of wonderful folklore shows. Various colorful activities involving folk customs and intangible heritage culture unveils the festive celebrations of Chinese New Year in Jiangsu.

“Carrying Warriors” in Suzhou



It is a New Year's custom in Suzhou to “carry warriors”. In Dongshan Town and Xukou town, Wuzhong District of Suzhou, an event of carrying warriors is held during the first month of the Chinese New Year. There are performers carrying banners and flower garlands in front of the “warriors”, beating gongs and drums along the street, dancing with rattle sticks or silk to pray for good weather and good harvest in the coming year. The show well represents the rich folk culture of Jiangsu.

“Whipping the Spring Ox” in Fun- ing of Yancheng



The ancient folklore of “whipping the spring ox” is one of the most eye-catching scenery in Jiangsu. Thanks to the lively activity of “whipping the spring ox” in Funing of Yancheng, Jiangsu Province, the Beginning of Spring (the first solar term in Chinese lunar calendar) is even comparable to the Lantern Festival. The large-scale folk performance of “whipping the spring ox” is full of excitement. Visitors can touch the “spring ox” and even get candies, pastries and grains out of its belly.

Wansui Monkey Lanterns Show in Changzhou

Wansui Monkey Lanterns Show originated in the Baitudun Village of Wansui, Menghe Town, Xinbei District, Changzhou City. It is a form of folk dance and acrobatics performed by people dressed as monkeys instead of real lanterns, and has been passed down for more than 300 years in the land of Menghe. Nowadays, Wansui Monkey Lanterns is often performed during major festivals or temple fairs. During the performance, the actors are dressed as monkeys in special masks, hats and clothes, awe-inspiring all the way with a deafening sound of gongs and drums.





New Year Flower Exhibition at Xuanwu Lake

The annual New Year Flower Exhibition at Xuanwu Lake will be held from January 22 to February 15, 2022 in Liangzhou Jinling Bonsai Garden, displaying nearly 300 pots of boutique flowers to welcome the Spring Festival. The varieties on display are butterfly orchid, dendrobium nobile, purple vanilla, purple jade princess, weeping jasmine, vanilla, bergamot, lotus tiger tail orchid, white jade tiger tail orchid, safflower tiger thorn plum and other flowers. Some are elegant and luxurious, and some smell fragrant.

TIPS

Exhibition time
Jan. 22 to Feb. 15

Exhibition venue
Nanjing Xuanwu Lake Park



UNDERSTANDING JIANGSU WITH A GLIMPSE OF THE FOUR MUSEUMS

—Geng Chunxiao



Jiangsu boasts more than 300 recognized museums, which are the landmarks of the city and the reflection of its history and culture. These museums have different themes. They are beautiful and charming, recording the mysteries of history as well as the changes of the times. They present the attitude of the locals in Jiangsu toward life, highlighting the essence of regional culture. In this chilly weather at the end of the year, let's go to these museums to feel the warmth of history, appreciate the signs of creation, and search for the roots of Jiangsu.

Entering the Nanjing Museum, you can see national treasures such as the “Stringed Jade Ornaments” from the Neolithic period, “Golden Beasts” from the Western Han Dynasty, the mold-printed brick painting of the “Seven Sages of the Bamboo Forest and Rong Qiqi” from the Southern Dynasties, and the “Under-glazed Red Plum Vase with Design of Pine, Bamboo and Prunus” from the Ming Dynasty. Walking into the white-walled Suzhou Museum, you can touch the cultural temperament of Jiangsu. This museum with distinctive regional characteristics was designed by the world-famous Chinese-American architect I.M. Pei, who is originally from Suzhou, and has become a symbol for the world to know Suzhou.

Located on the bank of Haohe River, the Nantong Museum was founded in 1905 by Zhang Jian, a famous patriotic industrialist and scholar of the late Qing Dynasty. As one of the earliest public museums in China, Nantong Museum is also a garden where one can enjoy beautiful flowers and scenery while highlighting the millennial culture and humanistic charm of Jiangsu, which distinguishes it from the other general museums. The China Grand Canal Museum in Yangzhou is the first thematic museum nationwide that comprehensively displays the Grand Canal of thousands of years old. Here you can learn more about the world-famous Grand Canal, experiencing the surging passion of “Water-Charming Jiangsu” for the world.

A Monster of a Museum in the Southern Capital

—Frank Hossack

Before we get started, it should be noted that the Nanjing Museum will demand at least a full day of your time. For the place is colossal and its exhibits plentiful to say the least. So pack a lunch and wear comfortable shoes fit for a good walk. It's time for a visit to one of but only three national-level museums in all of China.



Dating back to 1933, and with its great hall in the style of a Liao Dynasty palace, the Nanjing Museum's 70,000 square metres of area makes it one of the biggest museums in China, while its collection also ranks up there. There are over 430,000 items in the museum's permanent collection alone (only the Palace Museum in Beijing has more), among which the Ming and Qing imperial porcelain collection is also one of the world's largest.

A total of 12 exhibition halls comprise the Nanjing Museum, specifically devoted to pottery, copper ware, jade, porcelain, paintings & calligraphy, documents, gold & silver, lacquerware, embroidery, ethnic artefacts, folk art and others.

Therein, some artefacts were discovered in Jiangsu Province, while some come from all over the country. There are antiques

collected by royal families and those from archaeological excavations; bronze ware, jade, ceramics, gold and silver utensils. Visitors will see stunning artworks made from bamboo, wood, ivory and rhinoceros horns; lacquerware, textiles and embroideries, calligraphy, paintings and official seals.

As explicit witness to the evolution of Chinese civilization over thousands of years, the artefacts in the Nanjing Museum are among the nation's most important cultural assets and a prerequisite for the museum's academic research. One such good example would be the walls made of bricks from the Northern and Southern Dynasties, dating back to 420 C.E.

Coming right up to date is the Digital Gallery, which breaks the traditional display mould of display boards in glass cases. Here, an important Chinese art masterpiece, "Story of the Grand Capital," is digitally animated and projected onto textured backgrounds. Elsewhere, the era of the Republic of China is given special attention in a life-sized Republic of China street scene, admittedly a little kitsch but nevertheless a good photo



opportunity popular with cosplay fans. It is also nicely complimented by the exhibit, Impression of Nanjing: Photo Exhibitions of the Republic of China (1912-1949), which charts well the development and changes of Nanjing.

For this Chinese New Year of the Tiger, the Nanjing Museum has specially gathered cultural relics of the twelve zodiacs. Showing in the Erudition Hall of the Arts Gallery on the museum's second floor, the exhibition opened on Dec. 28, 2021.

Other temporary exhibitions taking place at the moment comprise "The Glamour of the Song and The Spiritual Word of Scholar Officials" (until March 22), "Beautiful Calligraphy and Wonderful Language: Special Exhibition on Qing Dynasty Couplets" (until June), "Everlasting Spirit Makes Time Meaningful: Exhibition on Fu Baoshi's Donated Works" (until June), "Orthodox Painting - Fine Art Exhibition of 'Four Wang Masters' in the Early Qing Dynasty" (until June) and "Exhibition on Chen Zhifo's Paintings after 1949" (also until June).

TIPS

Nearby tourist attractions

The Ming Palace (or minggugong) which served as the blueprint for the Forbidden City in Beijing, is 10 minutes walk away.

How to book

Admission is free with valid ID.

Closed Mondays.

Tel: 025-84807923



Getting there

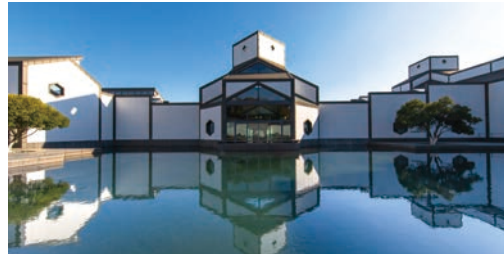
The Nanjing Museum is 300 meters from Exit 1 of Minggugong Station on Nanjing Metro Line 2.



Take in a Touch of SUZHOU SOUL

—Frank Hossack

A true highlight of Suzhou, the city's museum is one of the most visited in the world, with its unique architecture that serves as a hint of what is to come as visitors approach. For the Suzhou Museum touches the city's very soul; traditional white stucco walls adorned by sloping black roofs and, here and there, a splash of grey.



Getting there

The Suzhou Museum is a 12-minute taxi ride from Suzhou Railway Station, a 15-minute ride from Suzhou Industrial Park Railway Station and a 25-minute ride from Suzhou North Railway Station.



Completed in 2006, with architecture by Chinese-American and Pritzker Prize-winning, I.M. Pei, who lived in Suzhou during his childhood, the museum covers a wide area of 10,700 square meters.

Therein, over 40,000 historical and cultural relics, including, but not limited to bronze, calligraphy, ceramics, handcraft, ivory, jade, paintings and stone.

The ceramics exhibition is of a particularly of high standard. Therein, the 1,100-year-old Olive Green Lotus-Shaped Bowl, actually a local

find, from the third floor of Yunyansi Pagoda on Suzhou's Tiger Hill, is one of the museum's most precious items. Over the calligraphies section, and almost as old, there lies a national treasure. Dating back to the Yuan Dynasty, the Scroll of Seven Bamboo Paintings measures some 10 meters by 36.5 centimeters. Its value is thought to be in excess of 100 million yuan. Then there is the special hall exhibiting folk art collections. Visitors shall appreciate the many interesting items and scenes of daily life in ancient Suzhou, from that of ordinary people to the officials' court.

TIPS

Nearby tourist attractions

The Humble Administrator's Garden is 5 minutes' walk away

Pingjiang Road Historical Cultural Block is 12 minutes' walk

Tiger Hill is 15 minutes' drive

Suzhou No.1 Silk Factory is 20 minutes' drive

How to book

Admission is free



Walking out from the exhibition area, it's time for a break from the old routine. At most museums, outside the front door is the car park. But Pei lived in Suzhou as a young boy and as an accomplished architect later in life, was keen to inject the city's spirit into his creation.

For outside the museum we find an altogether different land. And its one which reflects the most celebrated parts of Suzhou life, the city's classical southern China gardens. Therein, rockers, ponds, pavilions and bridges, all set within a bamboo forest. There is little more quintessentially China, while the arrangement of rocks and water among the many pavilions and bridges are the very foundations of Feng Shui.



CHINA GRAND CANAL MUSEUM

A recorder of civilization next to the world heritage

—Justin Jiang

As the north-south transportation artery in ancient China, the Grand Canal has been flowing for more than 2,500 years. Built in 486 B.C., the 2,700-kilometer-long Grand Canal spans across eight provinces and municipalities, including Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong, Henan, Anhui, Jiangsu, and Zhejiang, etc. In 2014, the Grand Canal was transcribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, becoming China's 46th world heritage project.



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The Yangzhou section of the Grand Canal flowing through Jiangsu is 125 kilometers long and is arguably the oldest section of the entire Grand Canal. Studies have shown that the route through Yangzhou now coincides with that of the ancient canal to a great extent. The China Grand Canal Museum (CGCM) is located in the "Sanwan Area" (literally meaning Three Bays) of Yangzhou, where dense historical sites and cultural landscapes related to the Grand Canal are gathered. In recent years, public facilities have been built one after another in the Sanwan Area, including Yangzhou Sanwan Wetland Park, Sanwan Sports Park and Sanwan City Bookstore, making the area an important cultural tourist attraction and leisure place for the locals in Yangzhou City.

The overall design of the museum adopts the architectural style of the Tang Dynasty, which dates back more than 1,000 years, presenting modern, smooth and stylish lines, like a giant ship setting sail. It consists of five parts: the pavilion, the inner courtyard, the square in front of the museum, the tower and the bridge. The current collection contains more than 10,000 exhibits (sets) of various types of cultural relics from 500 B.C. to contemporary times, reflecting the theme of the canal, such as ancient documents, paintings, calligraphy, inscriptions, ceramics, metalware, and miscellaneous items.



In the exhibition hall of "The Grand Canal of China - A World Cultural Heritage Site," the 25.7-meter-long, 8-meter-high river profile shows the changes in the canal over the centuries; the 10-meter-high granary model demonstrates the importance of canal navigation to the country's economic development and people's daily life.

The exhibition hall of "Impressions of the Grand Canal Street" was designed to recreate the city's historical landscapes, combining historical scenes and real businesses. Here, the visitors can interactively experience the historical landscape of the towns along the Grand Canal with a history of thousands of years.

The museum also houses the 135-meter-long "Epic Scroll of the Grand Canal of China," on which 15 calligraphers and artists spent a year and a half painting the 2,500-year-long history of the Grand Canal's excavation and development, presenting the natural scenery and prosperity of the four seasons along the canal.

The exhibition called "Major World Canals and Canal Cities" showcases models

and pictures of weirs, tunnels, locks and other hydraulic structures of 15 representative canals, including six World Heritage canals, and highlights the human wisdom in the selection of paths and construction methods as well as operation and management of these canals.

The exhibition "Wetland Wonders" is mainly for children and is highly participatory, presenting the ecological connotation of the canal for over 2,000 years and exploring the mysteries of the canal wetland in an interactive way. In the "Long Canal, Diversified Wetlands" section, there is a colorful display of the natural landscape, ecological environment, wetland profile, plant and animal species of the area through which the canal flows. The "Paradise for Fish and Birds" is located at the center of the exhibition hall. Through the restored wetland scenes, the wetland ecology such as still-water animals and plant communities, plankton communities, benthic communities and submerged plant communities are vividly displayed, supplemented by the introduction of relevant wetland knowledge.

TIPS

Opening hours

Tuesday-Sunday 9:00-17:00
(admission closed at 16:00, open all day on Mondays on national holidays)

WHALES, GARDENS, BONES & COTTON

await in the Nantong Museum

—Frank Hossack



At the heart of Nantong city's old downtown, in Jiangsu Province, there is an area that stands out from its busy and crowded urban surroundings, by offering an atmosphere of peace and retreat in the middle of the city.



National 5A Tourist Attraction, the Haohe Scenic Area, distinctive for its beauty, with no shortage of places to enjoy, such as water canals, bridges, gardens, pavilions, alleyways and traditional buildings, also includes its most important and historically relevant that is the Nantong Museum. The museum was founded during the Qing Dynasty, specifically on Jan. 14, 1905, by the illustrious Nantong native, Zhang Jian, regarded as the Number One Scholar of the Imperial Exam in the late Qing Dynasty. Zhang was also a well-known modern Chinese educator, entrepreneur, social activist and industrialist. The museum initially covered an area of 23,300 square meters and was later expanded to 71,800 square meters, of which the majority is dedicated to botanical gardens and pavilions. The museum itself is composed of five halls. The main hall at the entrance of the complex presents a very detailed explanation of the geological and geographical situation of the entire area of Nantong, the jurisdiction of which includes the cities

of Haian, Rugao, Rudong, Tongzhou, Haimen and Qidong. The first gallery introduces us to how geological movements shaped the area, from banks of sand and scattered inlets 5,000 years ago, to the land as we know it today. Samples that provide evidence of early human settlements dating back to the Neolithic Era in this area, such as ceremonial carved bones and pottery, are on display. All this gives way to the introduction of the first industrial activities. From salt fields harvesting in the early Han Dynasty to the production of what was considered at that time some of the finest cotton in the entire country, attracting traders from as far as Guangzhou and even other countries, created the reputation that stands today as an area of textile industry excellence. Early examples of textiles, machinery, production methods, and most importantly, the economic and cultural impact of these activities, are also on display. The following gallery emphasizes the impact and significance of the cultural diversity in the area, thanks to the presence of foreigners attracted by the booming industrial and economic activity in Nantong. Witness a melting pot of art, crafts, literature, education, and even religion, made evident by the rich amount of fine pottery, calligraphy, carving, embroidering, jewelry and religious artifacts. Take the stairs to the second floor, and

you will find a gallery entirely dedicated to the legacy of the man who was responsible not only for the foundation of the Nantong Museum, but also considered a fundamental actor in the cultural, industrial and economic development of modern Nantong, playing a fundamental role in the reconstruction efforts after the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. A comprehensive collection of photos, magazines, books, documents, and objects offer a testimony Zhang's prolific activity, not least among which as president or founder member in the creation of 15 educational institutions, some of which are ranked today as among the top universities in China. Exiting the main hall building there is a small gift shop offering beautifully crafted souvenirs, while there is also an additional gallery hosting an exhibition for the occasion of the Chinese New Year celebration which displays examples of derivative uses of the tiger symbology. This exhibition will be open to the public for ten days from Jan. 28. Changing the tone of the tour and right across the exit of the main hall, a rather nice surprise is waiting inside another hall that hosts a collection of animals representing the bio-diversity of this part of the Yangtze River Delta. Fossils, seashells, small crustaceans, cephalopods, birds, fishes and mammals are shown, topping it all with life-

size whale and dolphin skeletons hanging from the roof of the main gallery. It's a delight to look at, especially if you are visiting with children. Leaving the "Ode To The Great Whales" exhibition hall, turn to the right to find what is with no doubt one of the most impressive and well-maintained botanical gardens you will ever visit. Specimens of trees, plants and flowers are carefully labeled and cataloged, the grass is spotless, while ancient relics, sculptures, utilitarian objects, decorative rocks and garden paths enhance the beauty. Additionally, scattered pavilions provide a place to rest and enjoy the intense fragrance that some of the blooming trees expel. The garden in itself is without question a must visit. Adjacent to the botanical garden in the northwest corner of the museum complex is located the "Haonan Villa," a mansion which was the former residence of Zhang. The main living-room by the entrance contains some of the original furniture of the house, while the rest of the rooms on the first floor are plastered with a collection of photographs and prints that depict in deeper detail the life and achievements of Zhang Jian. The Nantong Museum in itself is not short of accolades, its recognitions include being one of the oldest museums in the entire country and the first public museum in the style of classical gardens in China.

TIPS

The Nantong Museum is located at No. 19 Haonan Road, Nantong City. The entire museum complex is open every day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Entrance is free, except for the Haonan Villa where there is a charge at the door of 10 yuan. To access the main hall you must present a valid Chinese ID or a passport, in addition to the regular COVID-19 checks. The museum also offers a parking area.

All the text in the exhibitions on the first floor of the main hall is presented in Chinese and English. Not the case for the exhibitions on the second floor where only Chinese is available. There is also a guided tour service for the entire main hall which is also exclusively in Chinese. The same is for the Haonan Villa where all the text is in Chinese. In the natural life hall, the texts are also bilingual. A special guided tour that takes you through the visit made by Chinese President Xi Jinping on Nov. 12, 2020, during which he said, "Nantong Museum should be turned into a base for patriotic education among the public especially the country's youth, so that they will have firm confidence in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics."

Recommendable Exhibition

Nanjing Museum-

The Glamour of the Song - The Spiritual World of the Scholar-Officials

Exhibition time

December 18, 2021 - March 20, 2022



"The Glamour of the Song - The Spiritual World of the Scholar-Officials" is a New Year's Eve exhibition jointly created by Zhejiang Provincial Museum and Nanjing Museum. It showcases about 300 cultural relics from the Song Dynasty collected by 38 archaeological and cultural institutions, highlighting

the new archaeological discoveries of the Song Dynasty in Zhejiang Province, including many cultural relics unearthed from the tombs of the literati and officials of the Song Dynasty in Zhejiang, telling the governance and cultural life, and showing the spiritual world of the scholars and officials.

Joy of Spring Festival - Exhibition of the 12 Chinese Zodiac Culture

Exhibition time

December 28, 2021 - February 15, 2022



As the new year is coming, the Nanjing Museum gathers the cultural relics of the 12 Chinese zodiac, tells the story of the 12 zodiac with affection, and fully presents the 12 zodiac culture. Wish you happy Chinese New Year!

Calligraphy and Poems

- Special Exhibition of Qing Dynasty Couplets Collected by Nanjing Museum

Exhibition time

December 2021 - June 2022

This exhibition selects dozens of famous couplets of Qing Dynasty from the calligraphy collection of Nanjing Museum. It shows the development outline and artistic achievements of couplet calligraphy in Qing Dynasty.



Suzhou Museum-

Special Exhibition of Emperor Qianlong's Inspection Tour to the South

Exhibition time

January 1-March 31, 2022



"Emperor Qianlong's Inspection Tour to the South", which collected by National Museum of China, is a large-sized handscroll depicting the historic event of emperor Qianlong's first inspection tour to the south in the 16th year of his reign (1751). Xu Yang, the court painter in charge of the painting project, was a native of Suzhou. Now, on the occasion of the completion and opening of Suzhou Museum West, "Stopover at Gusu", the sixth scroll of "Emperor Qianlong's Inspection Tour to the South" by Xu Yang, is on display in Suzhou Museum West, presenting another visual feast of spring in Jiangnan.

China Grand Canal Museum-

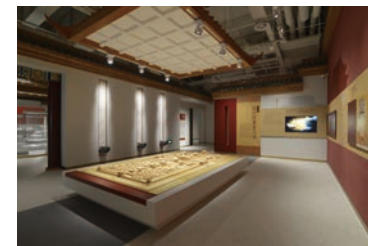
The Beauty of Architecture - the Forbidden City Floating from the Grand Canal

Exhibition time

During the Spring Festival

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Qianlong's first inspection tour to the south in the 16th year of his reign (1751). Xu Yang, the court painter in charge of the painting project, was a native of Suzhou. Now, on the occasion of the completion and opening of Suzhou Museum West, "Stopover at Gusu", the sixth scroll of "Emperor Qianlong's Inspection Tour to the South" by Xu Yang, is on display in Suzhou Museum West, presenting another visual feast of spring in Jiangnan.



"Emperor Yang of the Sui Dynasty and the Grand Canal" Exhibition Tour and Eaves Tile Rubbing Experience

Exhibition time

During the Spring Festival

Yangzhou is prosperous because of the canal. Emperor Yang of Sui's life was tied to Yangzhou and the canal. The exhibition takes cultural relics as the main body, cooperates with scene reproduction and text display boards, and describes the inextricable relationship between Emperor Yang and the Grand Canal through two lines.



Nantong Museum-

Nantong Museum Tiger Zodiac Culture Exhibition

Exhibition time

January 28-March 28, 2022

In order to celebrate the coming of the Year of the Tiger, Nantong Museum selected more than 80 cultural relics and 5 specimens from the collection, showing the imprint of "Tiger" in people's spiritual culture, customs, clothing, food, housing and transportation. At the same time with the strong taste of the Chinese New Year, to understand and feel the origin and residence of the zodiac culture, and touch the psychological pursuit and aesthetic taste of the ancients.



WELCOME TO Jiangsu

JIANGSU TRAVEL TIPS

We all want you to enjoy your stay in Jiangsu as much as possible. During these trying times, however, it makes sense for us to continue to be vigilant. Visitors are reminded that China has implemented the “dynamic zero-case policy.”

- Ensure you have the necessary COVID-19 health checks in place
- Follow the directions of authorities as to epidemic prevention
- Carry a copy of your COVID-19 vaccination certificate, if available
- Wear a face mask throughout your journey by plane, train or on any other public transport
- Reserve suitable accommodation at a local hotel which accepts foreigners
- Download and set up APPs useful for making mobile payments, e.g. Alipay
- Check the validity of your passport and China visa

Also Good to Know...

- Foreigners do no longer require to get their train ticket in advance at most railway stations in Jiangsu. Station turnstiles are equipped with passport readers; buying a ticket online is sufficient.
- If you require a tax invoice for your train ticket, the paper ticket will suffice, and can be obtained in the ticket office. Car-hailing platforms now have dedicated pick up spots at railway stations, usually in the car park. Car-hailing drivers are not permitted to pick up passengers at the drop off point.
- Each metro system in Jiangsu has its own APP for seamless ticket purchase which can be swiped at the barrier upon exit and entry. Station staff will be happy to assist in setting up the APP if necessary. Many cities’ metro systems also accept payment by WeChat and/or Alipay.

