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JIANGSU GLIMPSES

SPRING ISSUE

JIANGSU

Glimpses

Spring Issue

The tea fields

in Jiangsu

Photographed from the Sky

Seems Like a Fingerprint of Spring

Fresh Food In Spring

Get Active:

It's the May Day Holiday!

My Romantic Date with Spring Flowers



WELCOME to Spring in Jiangsu!

Although often rather short, spring in Jiangsu is a truly splendid time of year. That's because this time of year represents a chance to enjoy together three essential elements of culture worldwide, but with a uniquely Jiangsu twist. What are they? Flowers, tea and cuisine!

They are blooming everywhere. It's the time of year when a thousand blossoms burst forth in Jiangsu. Peach, plum, cherry, you name it; they are nature's gifts to photographers.

Then there are the Dutch tulips of Yancheng to which we will take you on a virtual visit, as well as to see other flowers in other places, such as the white magnolias to be found at the Marco Polo Flower World in Yangzhou.

As the May 1st holiday approaches, the rapeseed also blossoms, turning large swathes of Jiangsu into vast carpets of yellow: this is the golden opportunities for selfies.

One of our friends, who comes from Wales, has written about Chinese tea for the last eight years. As something of an expert, he says Jiangsu is a tea province. It's the reason he chose to live here rather than back in Beijing again.

Jiangsu is the birthplace of Lu Yu, the most famous of all tea writers. And, of course, we also have Yi Xing, the teapot-making capital of China.

The climate in this diverse province is ideally suited to tea-growing; green tea, specifically, though it's the higher-altitude locations that make for the tastiest leaves.

For leaves, it makes sense to start in Nanjing, where Yuhua tea is one fine little secret. As a local tea, Yuhua tea is common in Nanjing, but a bit more niche elsewhere in China; the smallness of its planting region means it has not quite reached that tipping point in the public consciousness. In this issue, we take you to where the Yuhua tea magic happens.

Elsewhere in the province, there is undoubtedly the most famous of Jiangsu's teas. Biluochun tea is an acquired taste, perhaps, but one that rewards richly when done right.

Also in this issue, we take you to some lesser known, but equally attractive, vaults of culture, history and science, as our regular feature, Marvellous Museums, continues.

All that, plus a spring helping of that most useful of materials - bamboo. Braised bamboo shoots. Delicious!

Before making a travel plan, it is our duty (and everyone's duty, really) to take a moment to consider epidemic prevention and control. Please be sensible with travel plans, cooperate with the management of scenic spots, and do a good job of personal protection, while observing the relevant requirements during this quickly-changing situation. And thank you!

Spring Issue

JIANGSU

Glimpses



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01

THE RIVERS, LAKES AND SEAS OF JIANGSU

Let the Grand Canal Bring People a Better Life
——GONG Liang

05

My Romantic Date with Spring Flowers

ENJOY FLOWER

The spring of Jiangsu is fragrant with flowers and
vigorous with trees. People walk in flowers as if
traveling in a picturesque world.

07

Plums, Cherries, Peaches, Violets;
It's Blossom Time in Nanjing!

11

Messengers of Spring: Cherry Blossoms in Wuxi

13

A Dream back to the Tang Dynasty:
Nianhuawan Town

15

Rape Flower Dyes Qiantuo
Golden Yellow in Peotic Spring

17

Spring Wing Blows over Fengcheng River
& Wanghai Tower

19

Holland Flower Park in Dafeng,Yancheng
Tulip Encounter Unique Love

21

Marvelous Flowers and Rare Plants
in the Misty March of Yangzhou

23

Enjoy the Duet of Pear Flowers
and Chinese Violet Cress in Lush Green Forests

25

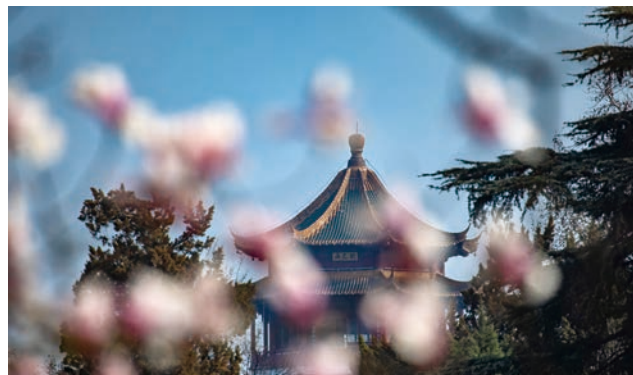
TEA TASTING

The Tea Fields in Jiangsu Photographed from the Sky Seems Like a Fingerprint of Spring

The tea field in Jiangsu can not only produce
quality teas but also is a nice place for tourists to go
for a walk.

27

Jiangsu Tea Expo park:
An Encyclopedia of Tea Trees All Around China



29

Find a Sketch of Spring's Green
Take a Sip of Jiangnan's Spring

31

Biluochun Tea:
A Taste of the March of "Jiangnan"

33

Have a Taste of Yangxian's Flavor
Which Su Dongpo Enamored

35

Besides Yuhua Stone, do not Miss Yuhua Tea
When you Travelling in Nanjing

37

Huanglongxian Village: A Sip of Spring

39

Tasting Liyang White Tea
Besides the Bamboo Forest
will Offer you a Sense of Coolness

41

JIANGSU CUISINE

Fresh Food in Spring

Selecting food on seasons is an attitude of openness to
life, which shows the respect for nature. Jiangsu Province
is a land producing various aquatic and fresh food.

42

Preserved and Braised Fresh Meat

Fried Spring Bamboo Shoots

43

Qingtuan: Qingming Festival's Bite of Spring

45

"City of Gastronomy"—Huai'an

46

"City of Gastronomy"—Yangzhou

47

Wild Vegetables

Contents

51

FOLK ART

Interesting Folklore Activities in Jiangsu's Spring

52

Qintong Boat Festival: The Olympic
Games On The Lake

53

"Spring Niushou" : A Folk Custom Of
Spring Outing In The Calendar Of
Nanjing People

55

There is an Appointment
in the Flower Field When Spring Arrives
in the Cittaslow

57

PICTURESQUE MUSEUMS

Picturesque Museums in Spring

57

China's Largest City Wall Museum

59

A Museum Adjacent to the Grand Canal
Heritage Site

61

Feel the Charm of Wu Culture from the
Jade Flying Phoenix of Three Thousand
Years Ago

63

The Mysterious Underground Palace with
the Fragrance of Nanmu

65

MAY DAY TRIP

Get Active:It's the May Day Holiday!

67

By the Sailing Venue of the Nanjing
Youth Olympic Games,Take a Walk in the
Wildlife Kingdom

69

Into the Colorful Pastoral Landscape,
Into the Paintings of Vincent van Gogh

71

Not a Race, But a Journey:
Biking in Yangcheng Lake Peninsula

GONG Liang:

Let the Grand Canal Bring People a Better Life



Qingguo alley historic district, Changzhou.

Chinese people started to dig the Grand Canal of China in the Spring and Autumn Period and finished the project in the Sui Dynasty. The canal flourished in the Tang and Song dynasties. During the Yuan Dynasty, the cutoff work was completed. It consists of the Sui and Tang Grand Canal, the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal and the East Zhejiang Canal. It goes through eight provinces and municipalities, including Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong, Henan, Anhui, Jiangsu and Zhejiang. It links five major water systems together, namely the Haihe River, the Yellow River, the Huaihe River, the Yangtze River and the Qiantang River. It is a major artery connecting the north, south, east and west in ancient China.

After over 2,500 years' development, the Grand Canal of China has created abundant material and spiritual wealth. It has formed a unique canal culture, and become one of the significant symbols of Chinese civilization. In May 2006, the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal was approved by China's State Council to be included in the sixth batch of national key cultural relics protection units; In March 2013, the Grand Canal and the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal were merged and included in the seventh batch of national key cultural relics protection sites list; In June 2014, the Grand Canal of China was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

East China's Jiangsu is the origin of the Grand Canal. The province's Yangzhou is the leading city for applying for world heritage status for the Grand Canal. The Jiangsu section of the Grand Canal consists of Jiangnan

Canal, Huaiyang Canal and Zhonghe River. Since the Grand Canal was completed in the Sui Dynasty, Jiangsu has always been a very important transportation hub, as well as an economic and cultural zone in China. The Jiangsu section of the Grand Canal flows through eight national historical and cultural cities, seven world cultural heritage areas, 28 heritage elements, and more than 5,000 cultural heritage resource sites of various levels, involving 103 key intangible cultural heritage projects, ranking the first in various data among provinces and cities along the Grand Canal. It is exactly the core area of the Grand Canal heritage. Jiangsu has played an active role in the protection of cultural relics of the Grand Canal and the application process for the UNESCO world heritage. The Jiangsu section of the Grand Canal is still a "golden waterway" for the national transportation and the South-to-North Water Diversion Project.

China's Grand Canal is a world cultural heritage, which also has a strong cultural landscape connotation. In particular, the Jiangsu section, which accounts for one third of the total length, 46 percent of the total heritage area and 40 percent of the total number of heritage sites, is of great landscape value. To strengthen the protection and maintainance of the Grand Canal cultural landscape heritage is not only the need of heritage protection, but also the need of people's good life today.

The Grand Canal is a world cultural heritage and an important cultural landscape heritage. The *"Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention"* made detailed interpretation of the criteria of cultural landscape heritage - "as a creative masterpiece of human genius," "to provide a unique or at least special witness to existing or already dying of civilization or culture," "it is an outstanding example of architecture, buildings,



GONG Liang:

Deputy Director-General of Jiangsu Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, Curator of Nanjing Museum

or technology, or landscape as a whole, showing one or several important stages in the history of mankind," "it refers to the most important events, traditions, ideas, beliefs, art or literature that have remarkable universal significance." The interpretation of these criteria leaves plenty of room for imagination to understand the landscape value of the Grand Canal heritage.



Qingmingqiao historic district, Wuxi.



Shantang historic district, Suzhou.



▲ Shantang historic district, Suzhou.

"Creativity masterpiece" means more than the creative linking of natural rivers and lakes into a unified Grand Canal under unified management. It has brought the exchange, communication and integration, making it the landscape heterogeneity and spiritual bond, vitalizing the agriculture, business, engineering and facilities along the canal; "The special witness of civilization or culture," the well-known stories of "water transport" and "salt transport," and the special river sites, locks, bridges and towpath docks left behind by them, are all excellent landscapes and materials for tourism. "Outstanding examples of architecture or landscape" are often reflected in the interrelationship and spatial construction between canals and hydraulic facilities, coastal buildings, and technological creations; "Remarkable universal significance" is reflected in the relations between the Grand Canal and many other major historical events and traditions emerged when Emperor Yang from the Sui Dynasty conceived the Grand Canal.

The Grand Canal of China is a living cultural heritage and a flowing historical context. Through the implementation of heritage protection projects and the improvement of the ecological and cultural environment of the canal, cities along the Jiangsu section of the Grand Canal have added more beautiful cultural landscape heritage. The "stunning scenery" of Shantang ancient streets in Suzhou City; the Wumen Bridge in the Panmen Scenic Spot; the "Water Alley" in Qingmingqiao historical block in Wuxi City; Huangbudun, a landmark of the canal; "walking along the canal" event held on the pedestrian path along the canal in Changzhou City; Qingguoxiang historic district; "Xiao Ma Tou" street in Xidujin of Zhenjiang City; and the Yaowan ancient town in Xuzhou city... they are local cultural heritage with connotation, and also the most valuable tourist attraction in the area.

For example, after salvage excavation and maintainance, the site of the Cao Yun Office of the governor of Huai'an has turned from

a deep underground relic to an important landscape showing the Grand Canal culture and an important tourist destination in Huai'an, with protection as a key requirement. The protection and repair of Dragon Temple Temporary Palace in Suqian city "have not changed the original state of cultural relics," instead, it fully respected the original building, and only added to explain the relationship between the building and the canal, as well as the relations with Emperor Qianlong's visit to the temporary palaces in "Jiangnan," or the area south of the downstream Yangtze River, which ignite people's imagination; The protective renovation of Shaobo ancient town in Yangzhou highlights its spatial connection with the Grand Canal and the connection with people's daily life, which reminds people of the scene of living along the canal in the past.

Like an umbilical cord of life, the Grand Canal has nourished and nurtured people on both sides of the canal, giving birth to

generations of people and bringing hope and a better life to people living along the canal.

On both sides of the canal, a number of historic and cultural cities and ancient towns and blocks were born because of "transport," bringing with prosperity. Different from the regional civilization nourished by the natural river, the culture spawned by the Grand Canal originates from exchanges, collisions, integration and development, presenting a dynamic cultural outlook featuring diverse factors and inclusive connotations.

The festivals, folk beliefs, dietary customs, recreational contests and poetry and folk art along the canal have their own characteristics due to regional differences, and are permeated and integrated due to connectivity. The flowing canal influences the people along the river. They broaden their vision and often do not stay in a corner, but move around like a river, absorbing progress and finally coming back one after another, bringing their experience and diverse culture back to their hometown and taking root and blossoming. If the Grand Canal flows through, the products will be rich and the population will be prosperous. If the canal is prosperous, the country will be strong and the culture will be prosperous.

In Jiangsu, ancient cities, docks, post stations, villages, sites and other cultural heritages along the Grand Canal are scattered all over the place. "Suzhou's Golden Age," the "Water Alley" under the Qingming Bridge in Wuxi, and "Looking North at Guazhou" on the Xijindu Ancient Street of Zhenjiang city are all outstanding masterpieces related to the canal. The water of the canal nurtures people of Jiangsu, creates a colorful and diverse cultural outlook, and lays out humanistic background of beautiful homeland and wonderful life.



▲ Xijindu, Zhenjiang.



My Romantic Date with Spring Flowers

— Geng Chunxiao

The spring of Jiangsu is fragrant with flowers and vigorous with trees. People walk in flowers as if traveling in a picturesque world.

Plum blossoms, cherry blossoms, peach blossoms, violet orychnopragmus, rape flowers, tulips, Chinese flowering crabapples, magnolias, pear flowers... Spring descends and spreads quietly over these flower branches, turning Jiangsu into an ocean of flowers.

Thanks to the advanced communication, the Internet can inform tourists timely of "spring." But spring is also a time for tourists to explore themselves, which requires favorable climatic, geographical and human conditions. Arriving early or late, you may see completely different flowers. These flowers are like the alarm clock of spring, guiding tourists who cherish the spring scenery to walk into the colorful picture scroll of Jiangsu Province and start the romantic date with the spring flowers.



Plums, Cherries, Peaches, Violets; It's Blossom Time in Nanjing!

— *The Nanjinger*

As the spring brings refreshing breeze, Nanjing now enters its delightful flower viewing season.



Peach Blossom

In many people's minds, peach blossoms mark the real arrival of spring. In Nanjing, peach trees are widely cultivated. The flowering period of peach blossoms lasts from one to one and a half months.

The "Peach Blossom Island" of the Jiangsu Academy of Agricultural Sciences covers an area of 100 mu, where more than 4,000 peach trees are planted.

Baima Park is a garden that features peach blossoms. As the temperature rises, the 10,000 peach trees in the park enter their flowering period, lasting until the end of April.



Plum Blossom

Meihuashan is a famous plum mountain in China, where many Chinese flower varieties such as Green Cricket are already in full bloom. Elsewhere, in Xuanwu Lake Park, more than 2,000 plum trees have been gradually blooming.



Cherry Blossom

Cherry blossoms are expected by the citizen of Nanjing every March. Without question, the most famous cherry blossom viewing location is beside Jiming Temple. It is a tradition that a formal announcement will be made once the very first tree blooms. Under the backdrop of the ancient buildings of Jiming Temple and

Nanjing Paleontology Museum, it is rendered as the most beautiful cherry blossom road in Nanjing.

There are also more than 3,000 cherry trees around Xuanwu Lake. You will surely feel regretted if you missing out on the tall, stretched weeping cherry.



A new choice for cherry blossom viewing in Nanjing is the Nanjing Peace Friendship Cherry Blossom Garden, near by Niushou Mountain. There are 18 cherry blossom varieties in the park, including early cherry, late cherry and



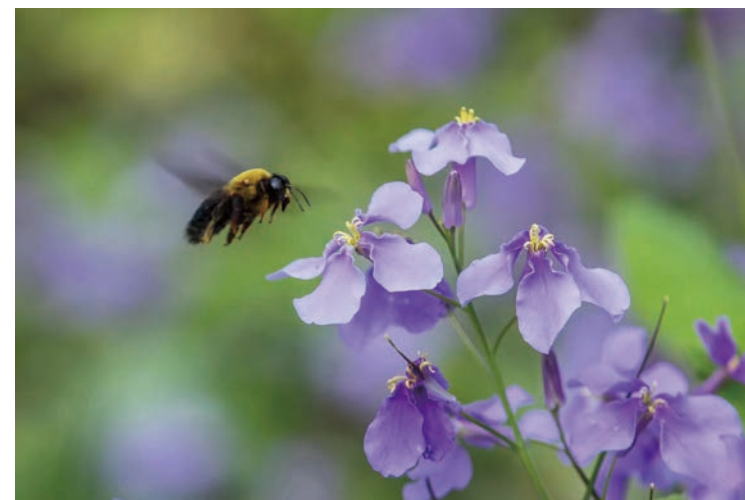
mountain cherry. The annual flowering period lasts for around 45 days.

A total of 1,200 cherry trees are planted along the sides of Huashen Avenue and in the central greenbelt.



Violet Orychopragmus

Finally, this little-known sea of purple flowers also represents the spring in Nanjing. Each year, the essence of Nanjing University of Science and Technology is violet ory-chopragmus. In the past few years, the Zhongshan Botanical Garden has planted 2 km of violet ory-chopragmus on the hillside south of the rose garden, which is another spectacular scene this spring.





Messengers of Spring Cherry Blossoms in Wuxi

— Ruby Chu

In March and April, the ebb and flow of temperature can make people confused of the season. Although in Wuxi City, when pink cherry blossoms fall on your shoulder, you know it is spring that arrives.



There are more than 200,000 cherry trees in Wuxi, with nearly 100 varieties. Every year as spring approaches, gardens and parks are covered in a sea of pink and white. With millions of people come to appreciate the spectacle, cherry blossoms have become a beautiful business card of Wuxi.

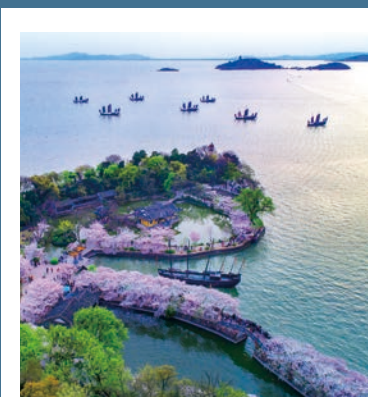
Yuantouzhu scenic spot of the Taihu Lake, in Wuxi City, east China's Jiangsu Province, has also been widely regarded by the media and tourists as being as famous as the Hirosaki Park in Japan and the Washington National Park in the United States, making it one of the three major cherry blossom viewing spots in the world.

Every year from March to April, Yuantouzhu is like a young lady putting on its most graceful clothes, showing its beauty to all. Visitors can climb up to the pavilion and immerse themselves in the clouds of flowers, or stroll along the Ever-Spring Bridge to indulge in a rain of blossom fall.

Here, visitors have the chance to taste many spring specialties that are exclusive

to Jiangsu. Don't forget to have a bite of Qingtuan, or green sticky rice balls, and pies made with magnolia, as these are local snacks that are only available in the spring season.

Cherry blossom-themed products are also available at the local stores there. Don't forget to make a stop at the Cherry Blossom Post office.



⬆ Don't forget to buy a cherry blossom-themed postcard and mail it to your friend, and let the cherry blossoms send the best wishes afar.



TIPS

Opening hours: 08:00-21:00

Tel: 0510-96889688

Transportation:

17 km from Wuxi Railway Station, about 35 minutes' drive

A Dream Back to the Tang Dynasty: Nianhuawan Town

— Ruby Chu



The Tang Dynasty is considered to be one of the most fabulous dynasties in Chinese history: people lived in peace and great prosperity, and culture and arts flourished to an unexpected height.

With many films and literature today trying to portray the beauty of the Tang Dynasty, 45-minutes-drive from Yuantouzhu, a town named Nianhuawan might offer you a glimpse to the flourishing age of the glamorous Tang Dynasty.

Spring is the best season for a vacation in Nianhuawan Town, as flowers blooming in branches and birds chirping around. When visitors arrive there, the Nianhua Pagoda should be the first building that greets their eyes. The pagoda is a very typical Tang-style wooden structure building, with bells hanging under the eaves in every direction. When soft breezes blow through, gentle sounds can be heard under the pagoda, bring visitors back to a thousand years ago.

For anyone who is yearning for a Zen lifestyle, the whole Buddhist-style town can provide a possibility for an immersive Zen experience. Visitors can wander through the Buddhist-style buildings and streets and enjoy the full blooming cherry trees. It's time to slow down and enjoy the small joys of life.



Hanfu, the traditional dress of China's Han ethnic group, and Qipao, a traditional Chinese dress for women, are the perfect match for cherry blossoms. Many local stores now provide Hanfu renting service, allowing visitors to dress like the ancients for several hours or a day.

When the night falls, a light show will be staged in the town. With lights illuminating the grand buildings, dance shows featured with traditional Chinese elements are performed by professional dancers, bringing visitors a spectacular visual feast.



Opening hours:
09:00-20:30

Rape Flower Dyes Qianduo

Golden Yellow in Peotic Spring

— Miya

In March when flowers compete to blossom, rape flowers burst into bloom all over the fields. Rape blossoms in Qianduo scenic spot, Xinghua, Taizhou City will soon usher in the best viewing period.

Thousands of "duotian," which is the local name for "raised field," are scattered in the water, over which countless large flower balls cluster. There is a sea of flowers between heaven and earth. Take a boat rowed by a young girl and walk through the fields. The fragrance permeates the water surface and the spring is right there in the air. In the eyeful of golden and swaying boat, you can enjoy the soothing wind in the willows and listen to the squeak from the boatwoman who rows.

The rape flower field, with clumps of yellow flowers ranged between the rivers, looks like bonsai raised in the water if viewed from a height on the observation platform. Looking down, you can see clumps of yellow flowers stretching out from the feet to the horizon. How warm, unrestrained and burning it is. Standing in this ocean of flower, you can feel the

intoxicating fragrance coming with the wind, filled with bold and unconstrained feelings.

Xinghua Duotian is an important agricultural heritage in the world. Praised as "the most beautiful sea of rape flowers in China," it is counted as one of the four major seas of flowers in the world, together with lavenders in Provence, tulips in the Netherlands and cherry blossoms in Kyoto.

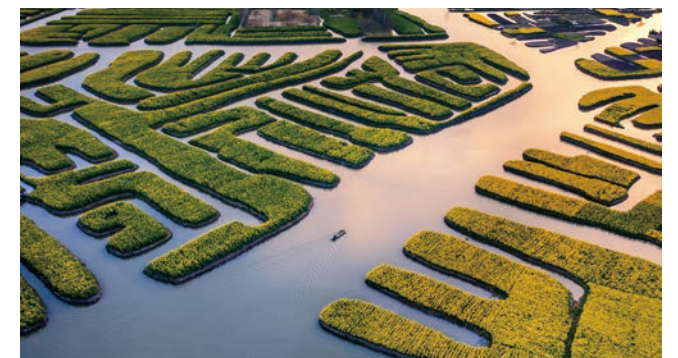
TIPS

Opening hours: 08:00-18:00

Tel: 0523-83601010

Transportation:

65 km from Taizhou Station,
1 hour and 20 minutes' drive

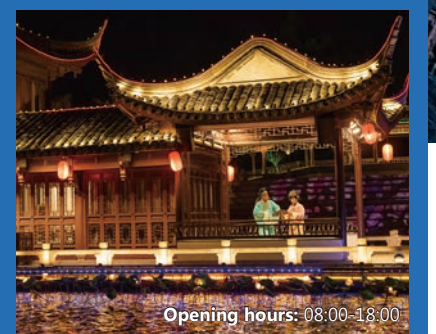




Spring Wing Blows over Fengcheng River & Wanghai Tower

— Miya

In the spring days of March, the new buds of willow trees on both sides of Fengcheng River Scenic Area begin to swell, bringing the earliest touch of green in early spring. Slender drooping branches wave gently in the wind, disturbing the lake below.



Opening hours: 08:00-18:00

Fengcheng River in Taizhou is one of the few well-reserved millenary ancient city rivers. There are more than 30 scenic spots, such as Wanghai Building, Taoyuan, Meiyuan, Qiaoyuan, Xuezheng Examination Institute and Taizhou Chinese Traditional Architecture Fengshui Museum, which collect

together Taizhou's four characteristic cultures: Taizhou history, opera, folk customs and merchants.

Wanghai Tower, a landmark in the scenic area, was initially built in the Song Dynasty and was rebuilt in the Ming and Qing Dynasties, which demonstrates the glory

of the Yangtze-Huaihe region. Wen Huaisha, a master of Chinese studies, called it the "No. 1 tower in the Yangtze-Huaihe region."

In the Taizhou Old Street on the east side of the scenic area, ancient buildings are full of antique flavor. The

ancient stage and theater in the street display the local intangible cultural heritage. More than 100 traditional snacks and private cuisines constitute a well-known snack street in central Jiangsu, where you can enjoy a variety of delicacies from different places in China while appreciating the views of Fengcheng River.

Holland Flower Park in Dafeng, Yancheng

Tulip Encounter Unique Love

— Geng Chunxiao

In March, the most beautiful moment of Holland Flower Park in Dafeng, Yancheng, has arrived.



Over a century ago, Zhang Jian, a pioneer and model of Chinese private entrepreneurs, set up Dafeng Land Reclamation Company here. Besides, he hired De Rijke, a water conservancy expert from the Netherlands, and organized over 500,000 people to launch a land reclamation project. The Holland Flower Park started construction in Dafeng District, Yancheng City in 2012 to commemorate them.

With more than 30 million tulips of



over 300 varieties, the Holland Flower Park is known as China's "top tulip flower park" with the largest area, the widest varieties, the most beautiful pattern and the most complete business forms among the counterparts. It has been awarded "the Best Tulip Scenic Spot in the World" by the International Tulip Summit.

In addition to tulips, all kinds of flowers such as lilies, roses, lotuses and sunflowers



are in full bloom at different seasons. Coupled with architecture of Dutch style, exotic performances, and immersive interactive land of dramas, the Holland Flower Park is growing into a fascinating scenic spot themed on love.

The Tulip Culture Festival is held in the Holland Flower Park from March to May every year, and a series of activities such as Dutch art festival, parade with Dutch flower floats, European cuisine carnival, "Love Carnival" scene show, "In love with Night Flower Sea" night tour, etc.

TIPS

Opening hours: 08:30-17:30

Tel: 400-1616-920

Transportation:
40 km from Yancheng Station,
50 minutes' drive



You can also watch the show titled *Unique Love-Land of Drama* by the renowned director Wang Chaoge.



Marvelous

Flowers and Rare Plants in the Misty March of Yangzhou

— Miya



Dutch dreamy flower field, Italian flower carpet, European-style garden, creative flower carving, exotic plants... At the Marco Polo Flowers Ocean in Yangzhou, you can see flowers from around the world in one stop. Here, the stories of Marco Polo's travels are skillfully woven into the beautiful gardens where blooming flowers are awaiting flower lovers from afar.



The park is themed on Marco Polo's marvelous journey to the East. It was carefully designed and built by Cartoon Saloon from Ireland, the animation team which was nominated twice by the Oscar Academy Awards, Amiko from France, the film team of *The Little Prince*, Nick Roozen-a Dutch floral master, as well as German experts on children's pleasure education.

In the Marco Polo Flowers Ocean that covers 800 mu, there are not only seven theme gardens on global adventure, such as Venice and Mediterranean Sea, but also five amazing flower wonders -

the world's largest artistic flower sea, the world's first dream flower hill, the world's largest flower carpet, the world's longest flower stream and creative flower carvings inspired by Oscar. After the tour, you can also enjoy colorful frozen flower pudding, fried chrysanthemum, flower mochi and other unique flower feasts.

TIPS

Opening hours: 09:00-17:30

Tel: 0514-87170089

Transportation:

4 km from Yangzhou East Railway Station,
10 minutes' drive

Enjoy the Duet of Pear Flowers and Chinese Violet Cress in Lush Green Forests

— Justin Jiang

Jiangsu Santaishan National Forest Park is located in Suqian City. With a 98-percent forest coverage, the city is home to the largest natural secondary forest in northern Jiangsu. In spring, you could not only appreciate the duet of pear flowers and Chinese violet cress, but also enjoy the "Natian Flower Sea," which include 612 flower fields that are "stitched" together.

Every year from the end of March to the beginning of April, the pear blossoms and the Chinese violet cress are in full bloom. The white pear blossoms and the purple Chinese violet cress complement with each other, forming a unique landscape of the "flower duet." It has become the most beautiful and iconic landscape in the Santaishan National Forest Park.

The word "Na" in "Natian Flower Sea" means "stitching" in Chinese. Covering an area of 2,220 mu, the flower sea includes 612 large and small flower fields. These fields are scattered, but also connected and undulating in accordance with the terrain. More than 50 kinds of flowers are relayed to bloom here in the four seasons, and they are arranged in different colors from the south to the north, forming a band of yellow, red and purple.

There is also a plank road in the park, where you can hear the sound of gurgling water and twittering of birds. The adjacent colorful forest area has most beautiful trees in the park. With 9,000 acres of forests and about 810,000 trees, the area looks like a lush green sea.



TIPS

Opening hours: 09:00-17:00

Tel: 0527-84397888

Transportation:

25 km from Suqian Railway Station,
40 minutes' drive

THE TEA FIELDS

in Jiangsu

PHOTOGRAPHED FROM THE SKY SEEMS LIKE A FINGERPRINT OF SPRING

— Geng Chunxiao



At the start of March, when the new tea sprouts, around the time of the Qingming Festival, or the Tomb-sweeping Day, it is the time to pick teas. During this period, the tea field in Jiangsu can not only produce quality teas but also is a nice place for tourists to go for a walk.

Tea trees are pickier to choose their planting sites than humans. Many teas with poetic names are in Jiangsu Province with scenic views, such as Suzhou's Biluochun tea, Nanjing's Yuhua tea, Liyang's white tea, Yixing's Yangxian tea, Yangzhou's Lvyangchun tea and Maoshan's Changqing tea. Every bud sprouting in spring awakens on mountains in Jiangsu, making the spring scenes tastable and admirable.

In Jiangsu, one should taste the aroma of tea, which is related to the Spring of China's "Jiangnan," or the area south of the downstream Yangtze River, and Spring's "first bite of freshness." We walked into picturesque villages and modern tea factories and sorted out tea houses and scenery parks around them, to provide you more leisure choices in Spring.



Jiangsu Tea Expo Park: an Encyclopedia of Tea Trees All Around China

— Zhou Fang

After walking into the Jiangsu Tea Exposition Park, one comes into an encyclopedia of teas. Even people who know nothing about tea can talk about tea eloquently afterward.



The park is located in Jiangsu's Jurong City. The most noticeable part of the park is the giant purple clay pot pouring water from the spout, transforming the whole park into a vivid scene. Around the central square of the park is a long corridor, and outside of it are tea gardens. When walking in the corridor, people can enjoy faraway scenes, taste the tea, and indulge themselves in the beauty of the park.

The Jiangsu Tea Exposition Park is one of the major production areas of Maoshan's Changqing tea. It also produces quality green teas such as white teas. It is possible to drink self-produced teas at every tea bar at the park. All tea rooms are simple but elegant, without tableware that has too many ornaments.

The park itself is a tea garden in which the only difference from other tea gardens is that it owns almost all kinds of tea trees in China. Another special thing is that the whole process of making teas is visible, and visitors can see the tea-making process through windows. There is one teahouse nearby where visitors can view, learn and taste teas.

The park has another function. It is the science practice base for the Jiangsu Vocational College of Agriculture and Forestry. Nowadays, many talents of the tea industry in Jiangsu were graduated from this college.

People living in a modern world always look forward to having a trip that can start whenever they want, but faraway locations and scenic parks are more like an illusion in life. The park in fact can become a part of life, which shows the natural character of culture and gives you a chance to relax and learn.



Way of contact : 400-178-8828

Recommend teahouse:

Teahouses inside of the Jiangsu Tea Expo Park

Recommend accommodation:

Yijingwan Resort

Find a Sketch of Spring's Green Take a Sip of Jiangnan's Spring

— Zhou Fang



From tea, one can enjoy and taste spring. Foods related to teas are tremendous. This time we go to Xuebu Township in Jintan District in Changzhou to visit the famous producers of matcha and very-fine powdered green teas. The secrete of matcha production awaits to be found out.

Xinpin has four tea bases, and its matcha production has a special requirement: before harvesting fresh leaves, tea trees have to be covered up by the shade net for 20 days. Once the fresh leaves collected that day enter the factory, the automatic distribution would start in the whole production line, because fresh leaves must be processed that day. The final stage of the distribution work is evenly divided into multiple kinds.

Matcha has over 1,000 years of history.

The technique of making matcha was invented in the Sui Dynasty . It became popular in the Tang Dynasty and reached its heyday in the Song Dynasty. However, ever since the Ming Dynasty, people have gradually gotten used to boiling tea leaves and throwing the leaves afterward. The unique technique of making matcha and powdered tea were lost, creating a historical gap in Chinese matcha.

According to history, in 1191, Japanese Buddhist priest Eisai imported the

technique of brewing matcha from China. The powdered tea was made from fresh leaves and ground into a tea cake. After that, the cake will be dried mechanically or in the sun. Before drinking it, the cake will be fully dried again, ground into powders. In the beginning, the Japanese made matcha by using the stone grinder with human labor. Not until the 19th century did humans begin to learn how to produce matcha through machines. With the development of technology and innovation, Japan has boasted the best technique of making fine-powdered tea and equipment to grind the tea. The Chinese matcha with its splendid history was further developed in Japan and was widely used in industries such as dairy products, cold foods, bakeries, bean-made foods, health products, and daily chemical products.

In modern society, people are increasingly getting enchanted by the flavor of matcha from beverages and desserts. We should appreciate tea lovers who developed and innovated matcha from the very beginning.



TIPS

Way of contact :
0519-82436298
Recommend accommodation:
Maoshan Oriental SaltLake
Resort Yanquanhanguan Hotel

Biluochun Tea

A Taste of the March of "Jiangnan"

— Miya

In the March of "Jiangnan," people's favorite is nothing but a cup of Biluochun tea from the Dongting Mountain, which is produced on Dongshan and Xishan islands of Suzhou's Lake Tai.

Biluochun tea is a kind of precious and famous Chinese tea. Half a kilo of high quality Biluochun tea is produced with 60,000 buds stir-fried by hand for 40 minutes.

The tea was called Xiasharenxiang (with scary fragrance) before. In March and April of the Chinese lunar calendar, from afternoon to night, people can smell the aroma of Biluochun tea in every village, and nearly every household has its stove frying Biluochun tea. People's hands are always on the tea and the tea never leaves the wok.

The fruit aroma of Biluochun tea from the Dongting



Mountain is related to its unique growth environment, the soil brought by the Lake Tai and mists, which made it distinctive.

To have a taste of the March of "Jiangnan," we recommend you to go to the Biluo Village of Suzhou's Dongshan Township. In the village, there is a cooperative focusing on making Biluochun tea, where there are over 1,900 mu of origin-protected tea garden, 800 mu of organic tea garden, over 1,200 square meters of tea frying factories, and over 9,000 square meters of leisure area. Besides that, there are 10 accommodations, with facilities, including dining rooms, conference services and teahouses.

Here, you can also learn how to boil Biluochun tea, which is pouring hot water first and then dropping tea. Due to the lightweight of the tea, the tea leaves will sink gradually after dropping into the water, releasing materials inside of the leaves and tea hairs attached to it. By doing this, the tea will have the taste of freshness, and the tea water will look very clear.

TIPS

Recommend teahouse:

teahouses inside of Suzhou Dongshan Wunong Biluochun Tea Cooperative

Way of contact: +86-13806212520

teahouses inside of Suzhou Wuzhong District's Xishan Biluochun Tea Factory

Way of contact: +86-13862402505



Have a Taste of Yangxian's Flavor Which Su Dongpo Enamored

— Miya

Wuxi's Yixing was called Yangxian before, which is a famous tea planting place in China. Known for its purple clay pot, Yixing's Yangxian tea is also unforgettable.



Yangxian was renowned for the Tanggong Tea for over a thousand years, and nowadays it is famous for "Xingxi Yunpian" and "Yangxian Xueya." These two types of tea are rich in aroma, taste and sweetness. Once Su Dongpo passed by Yangxian, he made the wish of staying in Yangxian in his old age.

If you want to have a taste of what even Su Dongpo has admired, you can come to Yixing's Qianhong Tea Gardens. Its tea gardens are surrounded by mountains, bamboo forests over thousands of mu, providing the best growth environment for teas. Among the tea plants in Qianhong's early spring tea base, flowers and fruit trees such as prunus triloba are planted. These trees enriched the ecosystem of the tea garden and influenced the aroma of the tea, bringing the natural flavor of flowers and fruits to the tea leaves.

To taste the pure spring flavor, people have to go to the Qianhong Early Spring Tea Shop to have a cup of tea, which is located at No. 62 Jiubinnan Road of Yixing City, or stay in the Qianhong Early Spring Teahouse in Taihua Township of Yixing.

In addition to picking tea, drinking tea and eating refreshments, you can also watch tea art in Qianhong Tea Gardens.

Yangxian tea, Jinsha Spring and purple clay pot in Yixing are called "three wonders of tea drinking" by Su Dongpo. Yixing's purple clay craft is not only the first batch of national intangible cultural heritage, but also another cultural label of Yixing. After drinking tea in Yixing, you might as well buy a purple clay pot as a travel souvenir, which is of both practical and decorative value. Let the fragrance of Yixing's tea be known by more people.



⬆ In the aroma of tea, the tea masters will perform the tea art in Yixing's Qianhong Tea Gardens. The graceful movements of the tea masters will let visitors appreciate the Chinese life etiquette related to tea and the lifestyle of self-cultivation with tea.

TIPS

Way of contact:

0510-87970016

Recommend teahouse:

The Qianhong Early Spring Tea Shop

Recommend accommodation:

The Qianhong Early Spring Teahouse in Taihua Township of Yixing



Both Yuhua tea and Yuhua stone are symbols of Nanjing. However, compared with Yunnan's Pu'er tea, Fujian's Tieguanyin, and Hangzhou's Longjing, it is rare to have people know Yuhua tea when talking about Nanjing. It is more like a secret of the Nanjing people.

Besides Yuhua Stone, do not Miss Yuhua Tea When You Travelling in Nanjing

— Geng Chunxiao



This time, we plan to crack the secret by going to Pingshan Tea Co. Ltd., located in Nanjing's Pingshan Forest Park. There are over 2,500 mu of tea garden, situated on the mountain top, with over 85 percent of it covered by forest, and it is neighboring four reservoirs, providing a suitable place for tea trees to grow.

The "Huaping" Yuhua tea has the shape of pine needles and the color of jade-like green. Prof. Cheng Qikun, former director of the Tea Research Institute of the Chinese Science Academy, wrote "the treasure among teas is the Yuhua tea in Pingshan."

To boil green teas with slim and tender features like Yuhua tea take fastidious methods. The boiling water should be around 80 degrees Celsius. Five to six grams of teas should be first put into the cup and then pour in hot water one-third of the cup. Two to three minutes after, once the tea leaves become tender, additional hot water should be added till 80 percent of the cup, then the tea is ready to be drunk.

It should be noted that places such as Nanjing's Huanglongxian Tea Culture Tourist Village, Gaochun Qingshan Tea Garden, Zhongshanling Tea Factory, and Yuhua Tea Museums are all good places to experience Nanjing's tea culture.

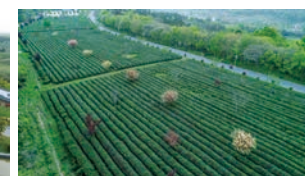
TIPS

Way of contact:

+86-13813038587

Recommend accommodation:

Nanjing Pingshan Rongyi Homestay



Huanglongxian Village: A Sip of Spring

— Ruby Chu



"Yes, that's it! It's the afternoon tea time again." The great British writer Lewis Carroll demonstrated Europeans' enthusiasm for tea in his classic *Alice in Wonderland*. Thousands of miles away, Chinese people also displayed their love for tea with this inherited habit of tasting early spring tea. And these beautiful tea plantations in Jiangsu are no doubt wonderland-like destinations for spring outings.

When green tea harvesting time arrives, Huanglongxian Jinling Tea Culture Tourist Village becomes a perfect get-away from the hustle and bustle of a city like Nanjing. The 2,600-hectare tea village in Jiangning District, Nanjing, has been transformed into a popular

tourist attraction under China's rural vitalization plan.

By taking advantage of the tea-growing culture as well as the abundant ecological resources, Huanglongxian provides tourists an escape to the Shire-like idyllic life. Be a Hobbit, and enjoy the fresh countryside air.

In Huanglongxian, you are also able to experience tea from leaf to cup. Inside the ancient-style Huanglong Teahouse, drink some tasty tea and enjoy the scenery around. The cool lake breeze might bring you back to life thousands of years ago: poets and literati chatted and wrote poems with tea in hand, and the rural scenic was their best inspiration.

A taste of spring is not complete without a meal at the local restaurants. There's a farmhouse food street where visitors are invited to try the local cuisine featured with tea flavors. Come by spring and have a try of the wild vegetables freshly picked from the mountains, as they are nature's gifts to foodies.

Don't forget to say "hello" to some local "celebrities." The nearby Huanglong Pond is home to a goose family, and they would offer you a warm welcome if being treated with some corns. Take a stroll along the pond bank if you are aspiring for some tranquility. Camping and fishing are also wonderful choices.



TIPS

Recommend teahouse:

Huanglong Teahouse

Recommend accommodation:

Xibu Inn

Tasting Liyang White Tea

Besides the Bamboo Forest

will Offer you a Sense of Coolness

— Kelsey Tang



People always believe that only icy beverages can reduce the heat. In fact, a cup of hot tea could better calm people down. Maybe this is the charm of tea.

Chinese medicine has proven that the coolness of white tea can reduce body heat. Liyang white tea is suitable for spring with growing heat. Its feather-like shape, and jade-like white appearance, as well as its taste of freshness, are popular among people.

To taste the Liyang white tea, we recommend you to go to the Tianmuwu Tea Research Institute under Liyang's Guilin Mountain. This is the first private tea research institute in Jiangsu Province, which is equipped with tourist facilities, high-standard ecological technology demonstration tea garden, tea varieties, nursery greenhouse, sanitized processing standard factory, tea package factory and cold storage, etc.

TIPS

Way of contact:
+86-18915856001

Recommend teahouse:
teahouses inside of Tianmuwu Tea Research Institute



Enjoying the Fragrance of Tea and Bamboo in Liyang's Teahouses

Liyang Meijieshanye Hotspring Resort

Address: 258, Zhuhai Avenue, Daihu Township
Way of contact: 0519-87908008



The resort is located on Zhuhai Avenue, a 20-minute drive from Nanshan Bamboo Sea Scenic Spot. This is the first firefly-themed vacation resort in China, with four ecological elements of forests, treehouses, hot springs and mountains. There are multiple venues for leisure in the resort, including 31 treehouses designed by a team from the Netherlands, a hot spring which was found by digging 1.788 meters under the ground, Wuwen teahouse, music square, spa in mountains, boundless swimming pool, Banshan handicraft workshop, etc.

Liyang Qingfeng Xianju

Address: 68 Wangjiacun, Songling Village, Daihu Township
Way of contact: 0519-87211666



Under the Qingfeng Mountain at the altitude of 450 meters are two independent mansions with traditional Suzhou-Hangzhou style, which occupies 500 mu. The two buildings have blue tiles and white walls and were built near the river, surrounded by bamboos. There are mountains and a water dam afar. The hotel has 11 guest rooms, and every one of them has a marvelous scenic view. There are swimming pool, barbecue place and open lawn outside of the house. In the house, there are tea gardens, orchards and ponds.

Liyang Wanqiu Shanju Homestay

Address: 205-1 Shenxijie, Hengji-an Village, Daihu Township
Way of contact: +86-15262005082



The homestay is located near the Jinniu Road, close to the bamboo forests and mountains, hidden among natural villages, and three sides of it are surrounded by mountains. The homestay also has fresh air, making it suitable for experiencing tranquil and leisure life in the mountain. On the roof of the homestay, there are candlelight dinners, afternoon teas in the yard with bamboos, fireplace movies, healer artifacts, and picnics in gardens. There are a total of 10 guest rooms, making the place suitable for parties, team building and family leisure.

Fresh Food In Spring

— Samantha



Selecting food on seasons is an attitude of openness to life, which shows the respect for nature. Jiangsu Province is a land producing various aquatic and fresh food. In the spring, people on this land may enjoy delicious fish, shrimps and clams, as well as vegetables from different regions. Seasonal vegetables wake up from mountains and farmland, and sprout to embrace the essence of the sunshine and moonlight, absorbing the nutrition from the surroundings, which are the best gifts from the mother nature.

Fried Spring Bamboo Shoots



It is said that the taste of bamboo shoots is the taste of spring. Delicacy of bamboo shoots should never be missed in the spring. Reserved in the winter and absorbing the fragrance and nutrition of the land, bamboo shoots are juicy, sweet and crispy with excellent flavors. Nothing can represent the freshness of spring better than bamboo shoots. Attractive and delicious as it is, the bamboo shoot may be fried, simmered, or steamed with different ingredients. Fried Spring Bamboo Shoots is the most classic dish. Fried with soy sauce, the bamboo shoot has the same taste as meat.

The oxalic acid in the fresh bamboo shoot dissolves and the bitterness disappears after frying in the pot. Being seasoned with soy sauce and sugar, every piece of the bamboo shoot is covered with tasty sauce. The shining gloss indicates the freshness of bamboo shoots. Every bite of the crude fiber covered with sugar and soy sauce will bring extraordinary experience.

Preserved and Braised Fresh Meat

The three Chinese characters in the name of the dish have different meanings. The first character means preserved and salted meat. The second character stands for braising with mild fire. The last character refers to the fresh meat. Freshest spring bamboo shoots are braised with freshest meat. The soup has thick and endless flavors. Spring bamboo shoots may not only absorb the fat but also make the soup more delicate. The tastes of salty and fresh meat are mixed together, soft and crispy, offering a peculiar and impressive delicacy.

Ham from Jinhua or carefully-selected preserved meat, freshest bamboo shoots, and streaky pork with balanced fat and lean meat are all important for this dish. Moreover, bean curd sheets are also added as an ingredient. Along with the slow ticks and tocks in the misty kitchen, Preserved and Braised Fresh Meat has been braised for several hours. Precious and palatable soup is thus born from the mild-fire braising.

Spoon out a bowl of soup, blow and cool it down, and take a sip quickly. The soup will relax and relieve every part of the body. Free from spices but filled with rich flavors, this dish combines the fresh bamboo shoots, delicious preserved and fresh meat, and sweet bean curd sheets in a perfect way. Different flavors and colors are matched appropriately. Taking a small bite, the braised meat will melt in the mouth without oily taste.



Qingtuan: Qingming Festival's Bite of Spring

— *The Nanjinger*

Qingming Festival, also known as the Tomb-sweeping Day, is usually a sign of the early spring. At this time of year, the sweet taste of spring becomes a must-have for local people.

In the traditional Chinese diet, every season has its corresponding seasonal food according to their ingredients, tastes and meanings. When it comes to Qingming, Qingtuan, or green sticky rice balls, is the one. Nowadays, these beautiful little green balls can be seen everywhere in the markets or street stalls around Nanjing.



Qingtuan was originally from the areas of Zhejiang and Jiangsu, and are especially popular in the southern part of China. The tradition of eating Qingtuan can be traced back to the Tang Dynasty. The very essence of Qingtuan is Chinese mugwort; the plant that Chinese usually use as a flavoring and colorant for seasonal dishes. With the coming of spring, when all the mugwort greens over night, people shall take the greenest and freshest and squeeze their juice, mix it with glutinous rice flour and wrap it with different fillings; the spring snack is in your hand. Originally, Qingtuan is used for ancestor worship, but as time goes by, it has already become a snack symbolic of spring.

Like other seasonal traditional Chinese snacks, Qingtuan has become synonymous with the spring season.

Nowdays, we can buy Qingtuan in almost every market in Nanjing. Besides, there are even several places in Nanjing providing tasty homemade Qingtuan, such as some small shops in Jiming Temple and Fuzimiao. These homemade Qingtuan are especially popular among the youth, and some of them are given as gifts during the Qingming Festival. Last week, we visited several of these popular handmade Qingtuan shops and found it even more diverse and popular than we thought.



TIPS

Recommended restaurants

Nanjing Lianhu Traditional Pastry Shop

Address: 26 Gongyuan West Street (Fuzimiao Pedestrian Street), Qinhuai District, Nanjing City

Suzhou Huang Tianyuan Pastry

Address: 50 Guanqian Street, Gusu District, Suzhou City

Wuxi Mu Guiying Delicacy

Address: 1F, 309 Zhongshan Road, Liangxi District, Wuxi City

"City of Gastronomy" — Huai'an >> >

Kaiyang Cattail



As a traditional dish and a local specialty in Huai'an city of Jiangsu province, Kaiyang Cattail is mainly made of cattail stems. The cattail is sweet, fragrant, crispy, and nutritious with the flavors of bamboo shoots. Cattail growing in Huai'an Tianfei Temple enjoys supreme quality. In the pond with shallow water and thick mud, cattail stems become strong, white, long, and crispy, which makes Kaiyang Cattail a must on the local feasts for guests.

Jiangba River Snail

Before the Qingming Festival, the rising temperature pushes hibernated river snails out of the soil. During this period, the meat of river snails is the best. In Jiangba, the freshness of spring hides in the water. Every kind of food ingredient has its own flavors regardless of the size. In the spring every year, Jiangba river snails attract numerous tourists who come afar for the delicacies in the spring. Jiangba river snails are round and delicious with chewy meat and endless aftertaste.

Eating river snails requires a demanding skill. Sipping the river snail hard quickly and briskly, river snail meat with tasty soup will blossom in the mouth immediately. In addition, customers may also try the delicacy with a single toothpick if they cannot sip the meat out.



"City of Gastronomy" — Yangzhou >> >

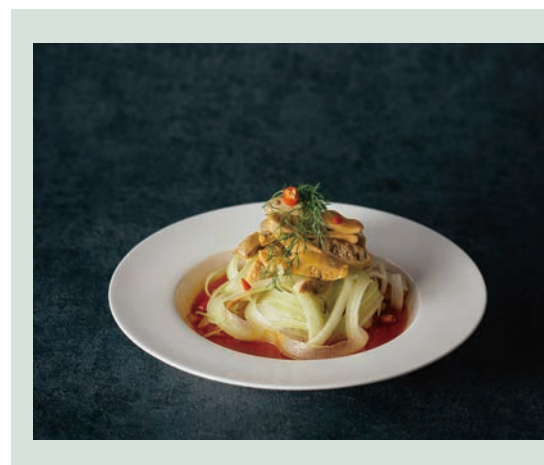


Puffer

Puffers originated in Yangzhou in the spring are the best in taste and the safest to eat. Sperm, skin, soup and meat are the four greatest parts of a puffer dish. Firstly, the sperm of puffer is the very essence of the puffer. Secondly, the puffer skin is rich in collagen, which is beneficial for stomach and helpful for beauty and health. Thirdly, the fresh puffer soup goes beyond



imagination and will definitely leave deep impression to consumers. Eventually, the meat of puffer is also delicious. Plain Puffer Soup is the most commonly seen dish. After drinking the plain but delicious soup and savoring the fresh meat, customers may also add a handful of chopped scallion and pour the soup on rice. No one can resist the fragrance of the puffer soup.



River Clam

River clams before the Qingming Festival are clean with fat meat. River clams and snails are recognized as the top seasonal river fresh in Yangzhou. As the old saying goes, "drinking river clam soup in the spring keeps away miliaria and ulcer in summer." Frying river clams with salted meat is the most popular choice. Fresh clams set off with salted and well-preserved meat, giving birth to a "unbelievable and incredibly delicious soup" with charms of countryside and local characteristics. Missing Fried River Clams with Salted Meat is a waste of the spring.

Wild Vegetables

Spring provides wild vegetables with a splendid arena. Nobody can resist the charm of green and fresh vegetables. After Rain Water Day, markets in "Jiangnan", or the area south of the downstream Yangtze River, will welcome the coming season of a variety of wild vegetables including Shepherd's purses, toona, Chinese chives and Kalimeris Indica.

Sophora Flowers

[yang huai hua]

Sophora flowers play an important role in the April of the spring. Featuring its colors, appearance, and fragrance, the Sophora flower soothes the mouth and nose in a soft and elegant way and leaves lingering fragrances.



Toona Sinensis

[xiang chun]

Regarded as "vegetable on the tree," toona sinensis are spouts of the toon tree. In the imperial courts of ancient times, toona sinensis and litchis were special offers for the royal family. Fried with soft egg, the dish is golden yellow and green with thick fragrance.



Kalimeris Indica

[ma lan tou]

Kalimeris Indica is abundant in nutrients which are helpful in clearing heat, removing dampness, detoxification and detumescence. The cold dish of Kalimeris Indica is the best choice, which brings about a blooming spring in the mouth.



Artemisia Selengensis

[lu hao]

For residents in Nanjing City, Artemisia Selengensis is indispensable as water and air, abundant and necessary. Fried Artemisia Selengensis with Smoked Bean Curds is the best representative. Mysterious and unspeakable fragrance explodes and lingers in the mouth, creating a flipping love on the shy taste buds.



Dandelions

[pu gong ying]

Dandelions are not only food but also medicine. People may boil the dried dandelions in water.



Broad Bean ▶

[can dou]

Freshly harvested broad beans hold the warmth of the spring inside and give out the fragrance of humid soil and green grass, refreshing and relaxing. Broad beans in the spring are very juicy. Full and emerald beans appear from the fluffy pods, offering perfect choices to be matched with vegetables and meat.



Purslane

(ma chi xian)

The fresh purslane is suitable for cold-dish, fried, boiled, or pickled. Firstly, the cook quickly boils purslane and adds soy sauce and sesame oil after pouring out the water. Next, scallions, garlic, and other seasonings are added and the boiled purslane is placed on a white porcelain plate, presenting a plate of scattering jades in front of the customers. Finally, customers may enjoy the cool, refreshing, crispy, and delicate purslane.

Wild Vegetables



Shepherd's Purse

[ji cai]

Honored as "king of vegetables," shepherd's purses are rich in 11 kinds of amino acids and various vitamins. The fresh and delicious shepherd's purses with unique tastes may be fried, sauced, boiled in wonton, or cooked in other ways.

Interesting Folklore Activities in Jiangsu's Spring

— Miya

The spring folklore of Jiangsu was kick-started by gongs and drums. The golden dragon dances by the Hongze Lake in Huai'an, the welcome of Flower God by colorful flower fields in Nanjing, and the spring-outing and spring-eating in the Dongjin water town of Yancheng... When the warm wind blows and the south of the Yangtze River turns green, everyone walks out of the house, pays tribute to ancestors, climbs high, and attends the boat festival. The outing in "Spring Niushou" that passed down from the Eastern Jin Dynasty to the present, has thousands of boats competing on Qin Lake during the Qingming Festival, or the Tomb-sweeping Day, and Wuchang Dance is performed in the golden flower fields of Gaochun. All kinds of wild vegetables also break through the ground; you can eat spring cakes, dig wild vegetables, and erect eggs... Come to Jiangsu in spring to feast your eyes and mouth.



Qintong Boat Festival: The Olympic Games On the Lake

— Miya

Qin Lake is a magical lake on the Lixia River Plain in Jiangsu Province. Once a year, it is filled with ships coming from all directions. The Qintong Boat Festival is a cultural feast for the children of Qinhu Lake, and it is also the inheritance of Jiangsu style and the vivid presentation of the beautiful Jiangsu.

"Qintong Boat Festival" is an ancient traditional folk event, whose history can be traced

back to the Southern Song Dynasty more than 800 years ago. During the Southern Song Dynasty, Army Yue led by Yue Fei fought against Jin soldiers on Qin Lake, and the local people punted boats to pay homage to the dead soldiers on the Tomb-sweeping Day. Over time, it became a water town custom. Every year during the Tomb-sweeping Day, thousands of boats and tens of thousands of boat people gather here, such a spectacular scene.



^ "Qintong Boat Festival" is an ancient traditional folk event. It is usually held in April every year.

In 2008, Qintong Boat Festival was included in the national intangible cultural heritage list. The festival is just like an Olympic Games on the lake. Every time the boat festival comes, Qin Lake is full of various boats, no less than hundreds. At a glance, the ships seem densely packed, the oars like a forest, and the flags like

the sea. On that day, almost all the ancient town residents of Qintong and many people from the surrounding towns, including Jiangyan City, come here. On the water, puntings and rowing boats compete with each, and the sound of gongs and horns rise one after another.



“SPRING NIUSHOU”

A Folk Custom Of Spring Outing In The Calendar Of Nanjing People

— Geng Chunxiao

In Nanjing, there is an old proverb about the recommended travel destinations in different seasons - Spring Niushou; Autumn Qixia. It means that Nanjing people have the habit of going to Niushou Mountain for spring outing and going to Qixia Mountain to appreciate the maple of autumn.

The "Spring Niushou" outing can almost be written into the cal-

endar of Nanjing people. This habit can even be traced back to the Eastern Jin Dynasty. In ancient documents and poems, it is written that a large number of people came to Niushou Mountain for the spring outing. It can be seen that the spring outing to see Niushou twin peaks has become an important seasonal folk custom. In 2007, "Spring Niushou" was included in the first batch of Nanjing's intangible cultural heritage list by

the Nanjing Municipal Government.

Today, Niushou Mountain is not only a famous mountain with beautiful flowers and greenery, but also a cultural resort covering cultures such as history, tourism, gardening and Zen. In March, when the temperature gradually warms up, the vibrant Niushou Mountain is naturally a great place to go. Walking into Niushou,

you can climb high to watch the beautiful mountains and rivers; walk along the mountain road, smelling the fragrance of the soil; stroll among the flowers, encountering red flowers and green willows. During the meal, you can choose to taste the vegetarian food, and you can also live in the small town of Jinling in the west of Niushou Mountain at night to enjoy the beautiful and antique night view. All in all, you'll experience the indispensable sense of ritual in spring.

THERE IS AN APPOINTMENT in the FLOWER FIELD WHEN SPRING ARRIVES IN THE CITTASLOW

— Geng Chunxiao

In March, 10,000 mu of rape flowers bloom in the Yaxi Cittaslow Scenic Area in Gaochun District, southern Nanjing, like a golden ocean. During the China Gaochun International Cittaslow Golden Flower Tourism Festival every year, performers of the intangible cultural heritage folk customs "Wuchang Dance," "Big Horse Lanterns" and "Small Horse Lanterns" will parade in the flower fields, attracting tourists to stop and watch.

The custom of Wuchang Dance was established by ancient villagers on both sides of the Xuhe River in Gaochun, Nanjing, to respect and remember Zhang Bo's achievements in digging the Changxing Jingxi River and draining it to Guangde in the Western Han Dynasty. The canopy, masks and costumes of the Wuchang Dance are of five colors: red, blue, yellow, black and white. During festivals, performing Wuchang Dance means to pray for a happy and healthy life by offering sacrifices to the gods.

The folk custom of "sending spring" in Gaochun also has a long history. It is said that it originated from the "Spring Field Song" in the Ming Dynasty. Since the Ming and Qing dynasties, a large number of performers have emerged from various villages in Gaochun. During the Spring Festival, they'd go to villages and send songs to households to celebrate the new year.

Embark on a tulip flower viewing tour in Cittaslow, watch kites fly, pick tea leaves in Qingshan Tea Garden, and taste a pot of Mingqian tea brewed with ancient well water... In addition to the beautiful scenery, Gaochun's "spring-eating" folk customs are also very rich. Toona sinensis fried with eggs, roast duck rolls with spring bamboo shoots and wild vegetables, shrimp cakes with spring bamboo shoots and chives, balls of wild mountain mushrooms and shepherd's purse, crab cream with Kalimeris indica, california burclover soup, salty river mussels and flowering stalks, five-spice river snails... The Yan bamboo shoots in Cittaslow Bamboo Garden - either stir-fried or stewed with meat - are sweet and crisp at one bite; the green balls made of Gaochun's specialty Cudweed Herb are soft, glutinous and fragrant. On Gaochun Ancient Street with a history of more than 900 years, tourists are full of praise for fragrant tofu, crispy rice cakes, sweet glutinous cakes, and glutinous lotus root slices.

When you come to Gaochun, in addition to appreciating folk customs, watching golden flowers, and eating delicious food, you can also feel the unique temperament of the very first Cittaslow in China. Born in Italy in 1999, Cittaslow is a global movement whose core is to advocate pure living and protect local characteristics. In 2010, Gaochun Yaxi Town became the first "international Cittaslow" in China.

If you want to retain the slow pace of life in the "Cittaslow," you can choose to stay in Gaochun: Zhensong Resort Hotel, Lujia Lodge, Bancheng Dashan RV Campground, Guilaixi Yaxi Manor Hotel and other hotels, homestays, etc. They are good places for vacation and leisure.

Picturesque Museums In Spring

There are many museums in Jiangsu, many of which are not only museums, but also parks and gardens. They are good places for spring outings to learn history, relax and get in touch with nature.

In spring, we can walk into the Nanjing City Wall Museum, where we can climb up to watch the spring cherry blossoms around the city wall, the Suzhou Museum of Wu adjacent to the Grand Canal heritage site, the Wuxi Hongshan Ruins Museum, which integrates buildings and lawns, and the Yangzhou Museum of Guangling King's Tomb in the Han Dynasty with the fragrance of nanmu. It is even more poetic to go to these museums when they are surrounded by flowers and greenery.

China's Largest City Wall Museum

— Geng Chunxiao

As the "City of Museums," Nanjing has newly added a blue-gray museum - Nanjing City Wall Museum. It is the largest city wall museum in China, reflecting the history and beauty of the 650-year-old city wall.

The building itself is the largest "exhibit." Standing outside the museum, the glass curtain wall is opaque, and the interior of the museum cannot be seen from the outside; standing in the museum, the Barbican of Zhonghua Gate clearly comes into view. This one-way transparent effect comes from the use of a special glass, which is the first time for a building in China to use this kind of glass, and the area of the glass curtain wall is the largest in the world.

The city wall bricks in the exhibition hall are also very impressive. There are more than 700 city bricks of the Ming Dynasty engraved with inscriptions, like books placed on the bookshelf waiting to be read by tourists.

What does the Nanjing City Wall look like in the eyes of foreigners? Some original foreign language books are displayed in the exhibition hall. The earliest is the 1639 Latin version of *China in the 16th Century: The Journals of Matteo Ricci*. Matteo Ricci, who had been to Nanjing three times, said about the city walls: "In terms of beauty and majesty... indeed, perhaps few other cities can match or surpass it."

The Italian version of *The History of the Great and Renowned Monarchy of China* published in 1643 was written by Portuguese

Zeng Dezhaoh, the Chinese name of Alvarus de Semedo. In his work, Nanjing's imperial palace, the pagoda of Grand Bao'en Temple, city walls, and observatory astonished him.

The 1668 Latin edition of *Nieuwhoff's Travels in China* was written by the Dutch explorer, painter and poet John Nieuwhoff. In 1656, he visited China with an envoy of the Dutch East India Company, recorded what he saw and felt along the way in words and sketches, and drew many pictures including the Nanjing City Wall.

Climbing to the flat roof of the museum, you can enjoy the beautiful spring scenery all around: the city walls are surrounded by green trees and cherry blossoms are in full bloom, and you'll have a panoramic view of East Zhonghua Gate, Barbican of Zhonghua Gate, the Glazed Pagoda of Grand Bao'en Temple, etc.

TIPS

Opening hours:

Tuesday to Sunday 09:00-17:00, closed on Mondays

How to book:

Make an appointment in advance on the homepage of the WeChat public account of "Nanjing City Wall"

Tel:

025-83217710

Transportation:

20 minutes' walk from Zhonghua Gate Subway Station of Nanjing Metro Line 1; 20 minutes' drive from Nanjing South Railway Station

Recommended nearby attractions:

Barbican of Zhonghua Gate,

250 meters from the museum, 3 minutes' walk;

East Zhonghua Gate,

750 meters from the museum, 10 minutes' walk;

Grand Bao'en Temple Heritage and Scenic Area,

500 meters from the museum, 6 minutes' walk.



Barbican of Zhonghua Gate



East Zhonghua Gate



Grand Bao'en Temple Heritage and Scenic Area

A Museum

Adjacent to the Grand Canal Heritage Site

— Hu Xiao



The Museum of Wu is located inside the Suzhou Tantai Lake Scenic Area, and on the south side of the Grand Canal (a World Heritage Site) and the Baodai Bridge (a national key protected cultural relic unit). The museum has a floor space of more than 18,000 square meters.



▲ Tantai Lake Park



▲ Baodai Bridge



The two temporary exhibition halls on the first floor focus on the special exhibitions of Wu Land culture and Jiangnan culture as well as other fine exhibitions from both home and abroad. The second floor displays permanent thematic exhibitions, including "Archaeological Surveys of Wuzhong" and "Ballads, Hymns, and Eulogies of Wuzhong." Such exhibitions give fairly comprehensive academic explanations of Wu culture and Wu Land culture.

The design of the Museum of Wu is inspired by the streets and courtyards of Suzhou. The patchwork of gray and white walls and glass curtain walls are a combination of elegance and modernity.

It is worth mentioning that the museum is adjacent to the Tantai Lake Scenic Spot. Looking out from the museum, a beautiful picture of spring comes into view. Tantai Lake Park has a large lawn, which is very suitable for picnics and kite flying. You can also check in the ancient Baodai Bridge in the surrounding area and enjoy the scenery of the Grand Canal.

TIPS

Opening hours:

Tuesday to Sunday 09:00–17:00, closed on Mondays

How to book:

Make an appointment in advance on the homepage of the WeChat public account of "The Museum of Wu"

Tel: 0512-65655999

Transportation:

From Exit 2 of Baodai Bridge South Station of Suzhou Metro Line 2, walk north for 10 minutes; 25 minutes' drive from Suzhou Station

Recommended nearby attractions:

Tantai Lake Park,
1000 meters from the museum, 12 minutes' walk;
Baodai Bridge,
800 meters from the museum, 10 minutes' walk.



Feel the Charm of Wu Culture

from the Jade Flying Phoenix of Three Thousand Years Ago

— Miya

Along the green tree road, you'll enter the Wuxi Hongshan Ruins Museum. The building of the museum is natural and simple. It is integrated with the surrounding broad lawn and is full of greenery and makes people feel comfortable.



Liānghong National Wetland Park

There are three main scenes of Hongshan Site, Chinese Wu Culture and Qiuchengdun Site, mainly displaying the fine cultural relics unearthed during the archaeological excavation of Hongshan Site. It is divided into six major sections: the shocking discovery of ancient tombs, the honor of ranks, the luxury life, noble ritual jades, the splendid music chapter, and the mystery of the ages. The cultural relics in the museum have extremely high scientific, historical and artistic values. Especially, jade, celadon, hard pottery, glazed pottery, glazed ware, etc., have formed a complete system, which has an extremely important value for research topics such as the history of Wu and Yue during the



Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period, the history of jade craftsmanship, the history of music, and the origin of celadon.

Among the many cultural relics exhibited in the museum, the most exquisite craftsmanship is the three phoenix-shaped pendants: two white jades and one sapphire jade. The white jades are "chicken-bone white" while the sapphire jade is partially yellowish brown after going through the weathering process. All the three are in the shape of flapping wings, with a small hole running through from top to bottom and both sides engraved with very shallow and fine patterns.

TIPS

Opening hours:

Tuesday to Sunday 09:00-16:30,
closed on Mondays

How to book:

Make an appointment in advance on the homepage of the WeChat public account of "Wuxi Hongshan Runis Museum"

Tel: 0510-88529556

Transportation:

25 minutes' drive from Wuxi East Railway Station

Recommended nearby attractions:

Lianghong National Wetland Park, 3.2 km from the museum, 8 minutes' drive;

China Stone Appreciation Garden, 2.1 km from the museum, 5 minutes' drive;

The former residence of Qian Mu and Qian Weichang, 4.4 km from the museum, 10 minutes' drive.



China Stone Appreciation Garden



The former residence of Qian Mu and Qian Weichang

The Mysterious Underground Palace with the Fragrance of Nanmu

— Miya



TIPS

Opening hours:

08:00-17:00

How to book:

Make an appointment in advance on the homepage of the WeChat public account of "Shugang-Tangzi City"

Tel:

0514-87625587

Transportation:

22 minutes' drive from Yangzhou Railway Station

Recommended nearby attractions:

- Daming Temple**, 4.8 km from the museum, 13 minutes' drive;
- Slender West Lake Scenic Area**, 2.4 km from the museum, 7 minutes' drive;
- Dongguan Ancient Ferry**, 5 km from the museum, 13 minutes' drive.



The Museum of Guangling King's Tomb in the Han Dynasty is located in the east of the Slender West Lake Scenic Area in Shugang, Yangzhou. The building in the museum is simple and powerful. It is a museum reflecting the Han culture in Yangzhou and also a garden with lush trees and green grass. In the spring, you can enjoy peach blossoms and begonia flowers in the garden.

The tomb of Guangling King is the tomb of Liu Xu, the fourth son of Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty. Liu Xu, the Guangling King, is the longest reigning king among all the vassal kings of Yangzhou. His tomb also has the largest "Huangchang Ticou (a burial

form)" among the feudal lords excavated so far, which is comparable to that of an emperor.

In 2000, the then French President Jacques Chirac once paid a visit to this Museum. He also visited Slender West Lake not far away and Dongguan Ancient Ferry by the ancient canal. Chirac said that he liked Li Bai's poem very much, "My friend waved goodbye to me in the Yellow Crane Tower. He was going to Yangzhou eastward in the sunny March."

The burial form of this mysterious underground palace is called "Huangchang Ticou." "Huangchang" refers to the peeled cypress, and "Ticou" refers to the way the wood is stacked. The general "Huangchang Ticou" is made of cypress, but this is all made of precious gold-rimmed nanmu (a type of precious wood) which not only has a light and elegant fragrance, but also is strong and antiseptic. After more than 2,000 years, it still exudes the unique fragrance of nanmu.



Daming Temple



Dongguan Ancient Ferry



Slender West Lake Scenic Area





Get Active: It's the May Day Holiday!

— Miya

May Day, or Labor Day, is celebrated in various ways in different countries around the world. For most Chinese families, May Day means a short five-day holiday. As May is the month that everything grows and flourishes, the May Day holiday is often referred to as a "golden week" in China, which is the perfect time for spring outing.

Get active! In the 13 cities of Jiangsu Province, places and preferences for travelling and holiday spending are quite different, but most people spend the holiday in ways like traveling around and leisure sports.

Spring is in the air everywhere across Jiangsu during the May Day holiday. Visitors can choose to visit Nanjing's Jinniu Lake Wildlife Kingdom and get in close touch with those lively animals; or take a stroll in Zhenjiang's Jurong Fouroux Valley to experience grass skiing, horse riding and fruit picking; otherwise, they can bike or jog along the Yangcheng Lake Peninsula in Suzhou. Bring your family and friends, and enjoy the beauty of "Jiangnan," or the area south of the downstream Yangtze River during the late spring and early summer time.

We will arrive at the traditional Chinese solar term "Beginning of Summer" after the May Day holiday. As summer sends all her lovely flower companions to the land, Jiangsu is ready to demonstrate new glamour. Stay tuned!

By the Sailing Venue of the
Nanjing Youth Olympic Games,

Take a Walk in the **Wildlife Kingdom**

— Ruby Chu

Visit the Jinniu Lake Wildlife Kingdom and have some close interactions with animals; Take a walk in the Jinniu Lake scenic zone and the Pingshan forest trail... In Liuhe District, Nanjing, the birthplace of the well-known Jiangsu folk song *Jasmine Flower*, activity choices for the May Day holiday are quite rich and fascinating.



When visitors come to Jinniu Lake Wildlife Kingdom, they will be amazed by the mountains that are covered in green. Brown bears and black bears play in the pools happily, and giraffes and zebras walk in the grass leisurely. Surely it is hard to imagine that this wildlife park built into the hillside is a large abandoned mine formerly. With years of ecological restoration efforts, it now become the green home to tens of thousands of animals.

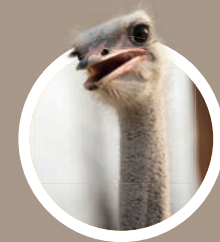
Unlike most zoos, where animals are enclosed in limited living spaces, Jinniu lake Wildlife Kingdom is a true paradise for animals. In the self-driving area, animals can roam freely around the vast park, while visitors are locked up in cars. Open your car window and wait for the animal friends to come one after another. Very likely, deers and ponies will peak their heads into the window and wait for your feeding. It's your chance to say hi to these cuties. Get in touch and remember to be kind to them.

In the walking area, animals here also enjoy broad and

superior living environment. Giraffes stroll leisurely, as if they had returned to the African grassland. Tigers and lions roll comfortably on the hillside. Although it is impossible to travel to Japan amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nara Sika deer inside the deer park are just as lively. This spring, a baby tiger and baby lion were just born, bringing hope of spring to the beautiful Jinniu Lake.

Twenty-five-minute-drive from the zoo, visitors can arrive at the Jinniu Lake Scenic Area. If you want to enjoy the beautiful scenery from a high position; the glass water slide above the Jinniu Lake is waiting for the brave's challenge. Visitors can also rent a battery boat and admire the beauty of the surrounding mountains in the middle of the lake.

Jinniu Lake's water recreation is quite eye-



catching, with "aquaman" flying from the lake to the sky and bringing tumbling, jumping and other cool stunts. It is worth mentioning that Jinniu Lake is also Jiangsu's water sports training base and the sailing venue of Nanjing Youth Olympic Games in 2014.

Last year, a camping festival was held in Jinniu Lake during the May Day holiday, with open-air movies, firework shows, barbecues and many other fun activities. The highlight was definitely the kite-flying competition, with kites of different sizes and shapes forming a colorful picture in the sky.

Feeling tired? Take a rest at the Jasmine Garden Resort by the lakeside, where visitors can taste some local specialties such as the braised fish head in casserole and babaidagao (a kind of cake made of glutinous rice).

For the second day of the holiday, walking into the green might be a good idea. It takes about 40 minutes to drive from Jinniu Lake to Pingshan Forest Park. In this park with a forest coverage rate of over 85 percent, a green tea garden is surrounded by 10,000 mu of pine forest, and there is a jasmine garden beside the tea garden. If you are tired of walking, consider resting at the Rongyi Homestay in Pingshan. Don't forget to try some Pingshan specialties: pork head meat, Donggou goose, unhatched eggs, etc.

It takes about 30 minutes to drive from Pingshan Forest Park to Chishan Lake National Wetland Park, where there are 10 miles of lotus ponds and thousands of

acres of pond cypresses. With the changes of four seasons, the pond cypresses form different scenery. Here, you can try the local organic delicacies such as fish head soup, salted duck and lotus tea. In the evening, you can rest in the boathouse located inside the Chishan Lake. Imagine sleeping with the company of hundreds of birds, how much fun it would be!

For the third day of the May Day holiday, indulging yourself in the full-blooming flowers. Thousands of acres of roses bloom one after another in Zhuzhen's Romantic Garden scenic spot. A camping-themed life festival will also be held here, where you can experience outdoor activities like blueberries picking, trampoline and so on. In the evening, you can choose to rest in the Barolo Eco Valley not far away. There you can enjoy flowers and fruit picking, and an RV camp is set inside the valley. Before ending your trip, don't forget to try the Zhuzhen mutton soup.



Into the Colorful Pastoral Landscape, Into the Paintings of Vincent van Gogh

— Geng Chunxiao

Fouroux Valley is a flower botanical garden located in Baitu Town, Jurong, Zhenjiang, and its name "Fouroux" comes from the Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh's nickname Le Fou Roux (the crazy man). In his artistic career, Van Gogh drew inspiration from the pastoral scenery for a lot of his masterpieces. Therefore, Fouroux Valley wishes to bring visitors flower sceneries just as beautiful as Van Gogh's paintings.



Leisure activities, health preservation, scientific research and culture experiences, you can find everything tea-related here.

We recommend you to take a night's rest at the Maoshan Hot Spring Resort. Located at the foot of Maoshan's main peak, the resort is a high-end Taoism-themed hot spring resort. Imaging soaking in the hot spring after a whole day's trip, surely all of your fatigue can be relieved.

The next day, when you wake up at the foot of Maoshan Mountain, don't forget to go outside and take a deep breath of the fresh mountain air. Walk along the mountain trail and enjoy the flower fragrance and bird chirping, or climb all the way up to the mountain top where you can overlook the whole mountain. The wild vegetables and bamboo shoots are mountain's gifts in the spring, so add them to your lunch plan.

Running enthusiasts can also take advantage of the trip and add the Maoshan Scenic Spot route to their running list, which is about 20 kilometers in length and all paved with asphalt. Lace up and be ready to encounter the beautiful Maoshan Scenic spot, Lucky Trail and the Jiulong Mountain scenic spot during your run! It's best done just before sunset.

If you wish to see all the splendid spring flowers in Jurong in one day, you can also choose to travel along this route: start from Huahai Road, which is an ecological corridor built with colorful pavement, and tourists can enjoy the rural sights while cycling along the road; passing through Lijiaqiao village, where thousands of acres of rape flowers are planted, and you would be amazed by the flowers in various colors like red, yellow, pink and white; and make Xifeng village as the final stop, here the Maoshan Reservoir covers an area of more than 5,000 mu, and the 1,500-meter-long dam runs from the north to the south. With lucid waters and lush mountains, hesitate no more to add Jurong to your May Day travel list!



There are many advices for strawberry picking. Strawberry picking is generally carried out in a greenhouse, and sneakers are the most comfortable. It is best not to use plastic bags for strawberry picking to avoid crushing the fruit. The strawberries can be stored in boxes and baskets, and pay attention to ventilation. Before setting off to pick strawberries, you'd better contact the picking garden in advance to confirm the amount of picking available for tourists in the garden.

In springtime, more than 30 kinds of flowers will be in full bloom here, such as Iceland poppies, Lupin flowers, Chinese roses, tulips, etc. The blooming flowers are distributed in nine landscape flower fields, just like flower carpets weaved by the nature goddess.

Besides flowers, in the north part of the valley, visitors can also experience many outdoor entertainments such as grass skiing, horse riding and piglet catching. The Flower and Children's Park is the top choice for families with children, which consists of a sand entertainment area, a climbing area and a water spray area.

Small-sized animals such as alpacas, rabbits, guinea pigs, goats and Cole ducks are raised inside the Suzy Farm. Visitors can experience the fun of feeding animals up close.

The Stars Camp offers outdoor camping experiences. The campsite is close to the Yongshan Lake and the golf course. You can sit on the grass and enjoy the sky reflection in the lake.

For a 100-percent original rural tour, a good place to pick strawberries is the Baitu Strawberry Park, very close to the Fouroux Valley. Baitu Town in Jurong is known as the "China Strawberry town." In recent years, Baitu Town has held the Strawberry Culture Tourism Festival every year.

The well-known strawberry variety "Miaoxiang No. 7" in Baitu Town has full fruit, the flesh is delicate and the fragrance is strong, which is especially suitable for travel souvenirs. The strawberry variety "Snow White" just like its name, has a snow-white appearance with slightly reddish seeds and pure white flesh that tastes faintly of yellow peach.

Fifteen minutes' drive from the Fouroux Valley, the Jiangsu Tea Exposition Park is something you do not want to miss.

Not a Race, But a Journey:

Biking in Yangcheng Lake Peninsula

— Ruby Chu



For people who find it hard to adapt to this place's low-pace lifestyle, they are losing half of their journey's fun. Yangcheng Lake Peninsula Tourist Resort in Suzhou, mostly known for its popular crabs, is also a perfect destination choice for a relaxing 2- or 3-day short trip.

Yangcheng Lake Peninsula has Suzhou's first sightseeing bicycle path that is around the lake. With the title of the "Most Beautiful Track in China Cycling League," biking along Yangcheng Lake Peninsula's bicycle path will definitely make your trip unforgettable. The 50-kilometer-long biking path is built along the lake shore, with 7 kilometers of the path over the water.

It is convenient to know that bicycle rental points are distributed in the peninsula's tourist centers, hotels and scenic spots, and support renting on demand. If you are tired of riding, you can also find a rental point to rest and get your supply. There are many different bicycle models available for renting: bikes, tandems, parent-child bikes and children bikes. Bikes for two or four-person with ceiling are also available.

Hit the road in the morning and make the Chongyuan Temple as your first stop for a peaceful Buddhism mindset. Shaped like a lotus flower blooming in Yangcheng Lake, the temple has a history of more than 1,500 years.

Then cycling through Lianchihu Park, Yunshanhu Park and Xianyinghu Park, where golden tickseeds, evening primroses, wisterias and dandelions decorating the peninsula, allowing you to ride into a field of flowers.

As you ride out of Lianchihu Park, you should be attracted by the fishermen nearby. This is the dock of the Yangcheng locals. As the sun sets, fishing nets dried by fishermen and crab cages can be seen on the shore.

Tired during your ride? Take a rest at the Sakura Cafe. There is lookout point at the Yunshanhu Park, which is the best place to enjoy the sunrise and sunset on the peninsula. For dinner, try some seasonal delicacies such as the fish head soup and the fox nuts with shrimps.

For sports enthusiasts, the good news is that the bicycle route around the Lake can also be used as routes for hiking, running or even roller skating. The whole route is equipped

with street lamps to satisfy the needs of night cycling.

Since exercise consumes a lot of energy, adequate sleep and rest are very important. You might consider Hotel Indigo as your accommodation choice.

Movie enthusiasts? No worries, the Huayi Studios will definitely meet your expectations. This movie-themed park brings visitors to the world of four blockbusters. Start your time travel and have fun!

The Nice Kart Racing Club located at the Xinghua Street can be your choice for next stop. One ride on the car and you are in the world of *Fast and Furious*!

Getting out of the world of movies and games, you might want to visit the Bicester Village. This outlet mall is home to more than 200 international luxury brands, and most brands offer pretty good discounts

throughout the year, making it a shopping paradise for shopaholics. Here you can also enjoy all kinds of delicious food while walking in those European-style buildings.

Biking in Yangcheng Lake Peninsula is definitely something you do not want to miss. During your trip, do remember that it's not a race, it's a journey, so just enjoy the moment!



WELCOME TO Jiangsu

TRAVEL TIPS

Our goal is for you to enjoy your stay in Jiangsu as much as possible. However, during these trying times, vigilance is primordial. Visitors are reminded that China has implemented the "dynamic zero-COVID approach."

- ▶ 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 will suffice..
- ▶ 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.