

## Qintong

Slow Lifestyle By Waters

/ 漆潼 ◯ 水波演绎的慢生活

Qintong ancient town, surrounded by water and beautiful scenery, has more than 20,000 square meters of well-preserved ancient buildings of the Ming and Qing dynasties. It is the most preserved and complete ancient town in central Jiangsu. The town has various shops, outstanding mansions, former academic residences where the smell of books remains, and old wineries. A tranquil Zen temple is located among the ancient dwellings. It is as if history and life are replayed before your eyes in a moment. It seems plain but has lasting appeal.



Local Experience: Qintong Boat Festival

本地體驗：漆潼會船

The annual Qintong Boat Festival in Jiangyan arrives around the time of the Qingming Festival every year. A thousand boats race across the Qinhu Lake. A hundred barges battle it out. This is the world's largest water festival and is known as "a great show of folklore and culture, an exposition of waterfront customs". As a folklore event with local characteristics, the Qintong Boat Festival has long gone beyond the boat itself and has become the best place to experience folk culture.

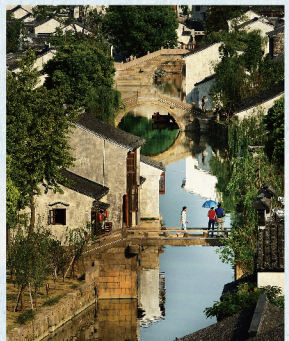


## Dangkou

A Town in Misty Jiangnan

/ 蕩口 ◯ 煙雨中的水墨江南

Ehu, where the historic town of Dangkou is located, has many rivers with beautiful scenery and has been a prosperous "water dock" in the south of Jiangnan since ancient times. Here, old mansions are scattered near the river adorning the deep alleys, and the simple elegant bridges are seen everywhere. In the rain, Dangkou is incredibly charming. The haze is so misty that you can't see clearly, but makes the town even more poetic and picturesque. When you walk in the mist, the noise and bustle seem to disappear, as if you have traveled to another world.



Local Experience: Scull the Boat

本地體驗：乘水上搖櫓船

For nearly a thousand years, the historic town of Dangkou relied on boats to get around. Compared to other ancient towns, Dangkou has a wide variety of water craft, including sailing boats, black-awning boats, dragon boats, and "foreign dragon boats" used for fire-fighting and irrigation, making it a museum of boat culture. Why not take a quiet ride on a rear-scuttling boat, and go with the rhythm of this water town? Or you can wander around the relaxed atmosphere and experience a slower time.

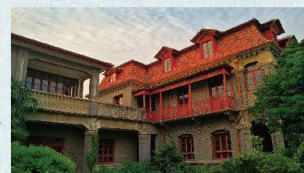


## Tangzha

Industrial Legacy of City

/ 唐閘 ◯ 城市舊影里的工業遺韻

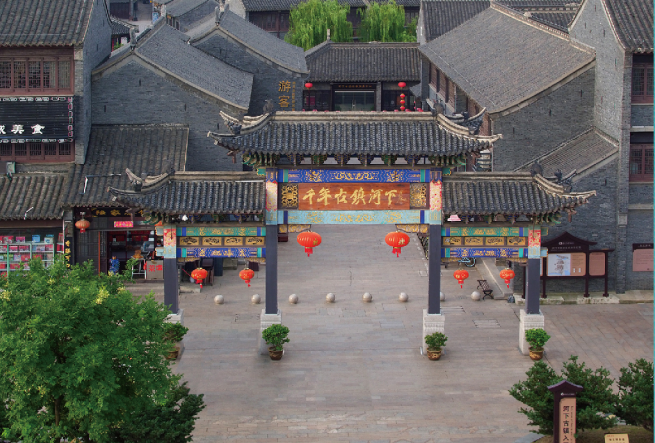
Tangzha in Nantong is known as the No.1 industrial town in modern China, but a stroll through the town reveals the unique architecture of the olden days. Most striking are the red buildings, green bricks, red tiles, mosaic corridors, and carved stone parapets, with a particularly strong European style. The town exudes a modern artistic feeling separated from the vicissitudes of the industrial civilization.



Local Experience: Artistic and Creative Space

本地體驗：藝術創意空間

1895 Cultural and Creative Industry Park is based on the old industrial site founded by the famous industrialist Zhang Jian in Nantong, preserving history while adding modern elements. The park is decorated with small shops with a strong industrial feel. Combining different art forms with modern technology and civilization has created a sense of the infinite possibility of art and life.



## Hexia

A Thousand Years of the Canal

/ 河下 ◯ 流淌千年的運河時光

More than 2,500 years ago King Fuchai of Wu region dug the Hangou Ditch, which connected the northern part of Hua'an with the Huai River, and the Hexia Ancient Town was born. Nowadays, the hustle and bustle of the crowds are gone, but the old town's simplicity and quietness cannot be hidden. Wheel ruts and horse tracks on the slate-paved streets, and the mottled brick walls, are a reminder of the canal era.



Local Experience: Delicacies on the Ancient Street

本地體驗：古街古味

The oldest street here, Huzui Street, is 1,500 metres long, stringing together the winding lanes on either side. Walking along the street, there is both an ancient flavor and a sense of modern life. The centuries-old Wang Xingmao Soy Sauce Workshop, the Yue's Tea & Cake, and the Wenlou Soup Buns all represent the oldest flavors, which can soothe both the body and the mind and reflect the peaceful and comfortable lifestyle.



# CHARM OF JIANGSU'S ANCIENT TOWNS

## 水韻古鎮



ENGLISH

江蘇省文化和旅遊廳  
JIANGSU PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND TOURISM



In Jiangsu, there is fondness for the beauty and rich culture of water towns since ancient times. Bridges cross the rivers, and housing is built with white-washed walls and black tiles. With its floating willows and charming bridges, old town beauty can be found everywhere, secular and lifelike. In riverside courtyards, colorful clothes are drying on long bamboo poles, swaying in the wind. The fish basket at the corner is colored with freshwater plants, glistening under the warm sun. A girl in blue is sculling her way on her boat, humming a rustic ditty on the narrow river. She is telling a story. The trivialities of life make a day, which is the charm of the ancient town. The unity of people and scenery endows the ancient town with unique charm.

Hidden alleys and old streets are unique sights of the ancient water towns. Each brick records countless stories. Each stone tells the real life of people who lived here hundreds of years ago. People walk on the potholed and uneven slate paved roads, travel in black-aving boats, plough the fields by day, and rest in tea houses during leisure time. The folklore that can be seen everywhere is a miniature of the waterfront living style.

Being in a world where you can settle down and travel easily, water towns can always provide people with a peaceful home that matches their inner-self. It is a feeling that embellishes the trip with a tranquil atmosphere, a relaxing mood, and a return to the original lifestyles of our ancestors.



A scene where farmhouse families live near a river under a bridge is the fundamental gesture and color of Jiangsu's water towns, casual and elegant, and in harmony with nature. The water town is made up of half water and half land. Stone steps rising from the water lead to the front and back of the house. Life in the ancient town is closely connected with water. Crossing bridges and travelling by boat is just part of the daily life here.

Zhouzhuang  
A Lifestyle  
/ 周莊○有一種生活叫周莊

Zhouzhuang, located in Kunshan, Suzhou, has the reputation of being China's No.1 water town, with nearly 100 classical mansions, more than 60 carved brick gatehouses, and 14 ancient bridges with different characteristics. It exhibits the typical Jiangnan water town's distinctive style, and rich culture of the Wu Region, and has resisted a thousand years of vicissitudes.



Local Experience:  
"Eating" a Cup of Granny Tea  
本地體驗：吃“阿婆茶”

Granny tea is a unique feature of Zhouzhuang. Here we call it "eating" the "tea" because, while having tea, people usually eat a variety of small snacks and Chinese pastries, such as puff pastry and green rice ball etc. When enjoying the tea, people usually chat, bonding with each other to enhance friendship.



Tongli  
The Lake, The Water, The People  
/ 同裏○五湖碧水抱人家

Tongli, with its long history, is a model of good living. As early as the Neolithic era, our ancestors farmed and flourished here. Surrounded by water, the excellent natural conditions have made it the most affluent place in the Wu Region. The town is divided into seven islands by 15 rivers and interconnected by 49 bridges. The picture of one garden, two halls and three bridges is the most characteristic landscape of Tongli.



Local Experience: Take a Walk on the Bridges  
本地體驗：走三橋

Where there is water, there are bridges. Auspicious to local people, the three most famous ancient stone bridges are Taiping Bridge, Jili Bridge, and Changqing Bridge. To cross these bridges the exciting sounds of drums in the old days was an important part of celebrating, when someone of the town got married, when the elderly celebrated their birthdays, and when families gathered for the first month after birth of a baby. Nowadays, when visitors come here, they always walk on the bridges to feel the sense of ceremony passed down from thousands of years ago.



Jinxi  
Thousand-year History, Bright as Weigela Flowers  
/ 錦溪○燦若錦帶的千年水鄉

Jinxi is named after a stream in the town that looks like weigela flowers. With its many places of interest, it still retains its simple water town appearance. There are attractions such as an ancient pavilion of Wenchang with wind chimes, the mysterious Water Tomb of Concubine Chen, and the ten-hole long bridge over the flowing stream. As if traveling back to ancient times, people are wandering around to experience the elegant charm of the water town.



Local Experience:  
Eight Significant Views  
本地體驗：觀錦溪八景

Since ancient times, nature and the unique cultural landscape of Jinxi have formed eight major scenic spots. It includes Jinxi Yuchang, Water Tomb of Concubine Chen, Lotus Pond Temple, Tong Shen Royal Courtyard, Drumming in the Woodshed Tower, Ancient Well and Wind Pavilion, Blessed Stones Tablets Remains, and Embankment with Stone Sound. Set against the backdrop of the eight significant ancient landscapes, the pace of life in Jinxi is soothing and pleasant. Misty rain creates a haze with gentle west wind and the sun low in the sky. Listening to the crisp sound of soft sculls and melody of the water town, we enjoy the leisurely and quiet beauty.



Luzhi  
Tranquil Antique Aesthetic Space  
/ 角直○靜謐古樸的美學空間

Luzhi, named after the legendary beast "Luduan", seems less known than other ancient towns in Suzhou, but the southern water town's charm is no less. Among the old houses and streets, the elderly drink tea and relax in the morning, while the women walk on the slightly wet slate paved streets after the rain. The innate beauty of Luzhi blends into people's daily life and exudes a unique water town charm.



Local Experience:  
Characteristic Women's Clothing  
本地體驗：角直水鄉婦女服飾

Women's clothing in Luzhi is regarded as a model of Chinese water-town dress because of its cleanliness, elegance, and distinct local characteristics. The costumes vary with the seasons and according to the age of the women. Nowadays, women's clothing can be tailored on the spot in the old-town workshops, or you can choose a style to try on and have your photo taken.



Huishan  
Open-Air History Museum  
/ 惠山○露天歷史博物館

Known as an open-air history museum, Huishan is located at the foot of Huishan Mountain and is a cultural treasure trove of ancestral halls, tea springs, and the culture of clay sculpture. The ancestral halls are the most remarkable feature of Huishan. With various kinds of pagodas and stone monuments, the different styles of buildings preserve the history and culture of more than 100 family names. Walking through them, you can feel the village's customs and savour the unique atmosphere of life.



Local Experience: Exploring Ancestral Halls  
本地體驗：探尋祠堂文化

Ancestral halls are special properties built in the past to pay homage to famous people or ancestors, reflecting the Chinese people's deep-seated feeling that people should never to forget where their happiness comes from and remember to always pay a debt of gratitude. There are over 100 ancestral halls in the ancient town, ranging from Chinese buildings with whitewashed walls and flying eaves to Western-style buildings with expressive structures and glazed finish. The complex of ancestral halls, with thousands of years of history, brings together Wuxi people's unforgettable common memories.



# 水韻古鎮 CHARM OF JIANGSU'S ANCIENT TOWNS

