

中國運河 (江蘇段)

Jiangsu is the birthplace of the Grand Canal, a magnificent wonder created by Chinese people and nature. It is also the province with the most cultural relics along the Yangtze river. A number of prosperous cities emerged in response to the time and conditions, and the dazzling and wondrous modern cities retain their ancient marks deep within.

Tips In 2014, the Grand Canal in China was inscribed on the World Heritage List.



Yangzhou Ancient Canal / 揚州古運河

In 486 BC, Fu Chai, King of Wu, dug the Hangou ditch, which was the oldest section of the Grand Canal. Therefore, Yangzhou became the origin of the Grand Canal. The water of the Yangtze River was diverted into the city, allowing Yangzhou to experience great changes and prosperity.

Slender West Lake / 瘦西湖

The flow of the canal from north to south nourished the city's wealth and luxury, and people built exquisite gardens near the canal. The Slender West Lake not only embraces the beauty of nature, but also resembles endless pleasure given by the rich history and culture. The landscape of spring willow on the Causeway, clear cloud over the White Pagoda, the Twenty-Four Bridge, and other scenic spots appear one after another, as if unfolding a long scroll painted by nature.



Li Canal Cultural Corridor

/ 裏運河文化長廊

Huai'an, known as the "Canal City", has seen its rise and fall closely linked to the Grand Canal. Li Canal, which carries the Huai'an culture of thousands of years, flows from the Qingjiangpu ancient ferry into the Yangtze River. In modern days, hidden in the bustling downtown, its grandness and vigor has faded away. On the cultural corridor of Li Canal, the steles say "Boat in the south, horse in the north: leave the boats and land" indicating the prosperity of the past. The canal cultural relics such as Qingjiang gate and Royal wharf add a solemnity and legendary sense to this canal city.



Dragon King Temple

/ 龍王廟行宮

As the throat of the Grand Canal and an important traffic node, the Canal has created a unique cultural value for Suqian City. It used to be the only place which ancient emperors must pass through on their southern tours. Among the six southern tours of Emperor Qianlong, he stopped over here five times, and built pavilions and monuments. Therefore, the Dragon King Temple was also known as "Qianlong Palace". For more than 300 years, the temple with its long history has attracted many tourists and scholars from at home and abroad to visit and study.



Pingjiang Historical and Cultural Block

/ 平江歷史文化街區

Pingjiang Road perfectly preserves the traditional architecture pattern of the water town, with white houses strewn at random levels and rowing boats slowly pass the bridge. Here is an epitome of the urban development of Suzhou. In front of it is the prosperity of an international city, and behind it is the history of thousands of years. Local people can be seen washing clothes by the river, and the galleries and exhibition halls, rich in modern flavor, reflect the various ways of life on Pingjiang Road.



Qingming Bridge Historical and Cultural Block

/ 清明橋歷史街區

The Wuxi section of ancient canal is the only section of the Grand Canal that runs through the city, and the Qingming Bridge is the witness to the history of the ancient canal. Over the past 400 years, the bridge has seen people's come and go and boats pass under it freely, bringing together the most splendid scenery of the ancient canal in Wuxi. People live on both sides of the water, in homes with white walls and black tiles, latticed wooden windows, shopfronts, rear factories, which fully displays the lifestyle of canal people. It is known as the "out-of-print place of the canal".



Shantang Historical and Cultural District

/ 山塘歷史文化街區

The endless canal water bred the prosperity of Suzhou. Shantang River was once the main channel of the Grand Canal. Today's Shantang Street is still bustling as ever, telling the old stories in new ways. At night, people can enjoy the integration of garden and Kunqu Opera in the garden. The melody of flute and the long sleeves flowing while dancing are showing visitors the charm of Suzhou and sharing an elegant spirit handed down for thousands of years.

中國黃(渤)海

MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARIES
ALONG THE COAST
OF YELLOW SEA BOHAI GULF OF CHINA

Jiangsu has a coastline of more than 700 kilometers, along which the Yancheng Wetland covers more than 500 kilometers. The most well-known wetland landscape is the habitat of migratory birds next to China's Yellow Sea. It is an important resting place on the bird migration route from North-east Asia to Australia and has one of the world's most biologically diverse wetland habitats and ecosystems.

NOTE Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase I) were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2019.

The Fascinating Kingdom of Animals

/ 神奇動物王國

Every spring and autumn, tens of thousands of migratory birds will flock to Tiaozini Wetlands. Among them, there are rare birds such as the spoon-billed sandpiper (IUCN rated Critically Endangered), the black-faced spoonbill, and the curly-feathered pelican. In the ebb and flow of the tide, the calm beach under the blue sky and white clouds, like a mirror in the sky, brings people to the fairy-land.



In addition, the wetland nature reserve is home to two ancient creatures - the red-crowned crane and the elk. Staying here, visitors can take a glimpse of what the beginning of life hundreds of millions of years ago was like. The song of the deer and the dancing of the cranes jointly interpret the lasting charm of the wetlands.



江蘇非物質

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL
HERITAGE OF JIANGSU
文化遺產

Intangible cultural heritage, like a window of civilization to witness every wonderful moment in the long history, are considered an invaluable wealth of humanity, embodying distinctive regional characteristics. Every small progress of Jiangsu's art and culture comes from these heritages, leaving people to awe on the precious legacies passed on from the ancestors.

Yunjin Brocade

/ 雲錦

Among the ancient Chinese silk fabrics, brocade represents the highest technical level, and the noblest brocade is Yunjin. The name "Yunjin" dates back to the Qing Dynasty in China. It is named from its delicate weaving techniques and a broad range of brilliant and beautiful colors and patterns, which are as gorgeous as clouds in the sky.

NOTE Craftsmanship of Nanjing Yunjin brocade was inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the UNESCO.



Kunqu Opera

/ 昆曲

Kunqu Opera, also called "Kun Opera" and known as the "ancestor of operas", originated in Kunshan, Suzhou in the 14th century. The 600-year-old Kunqu Opera is like a never-ending drama. The elegant costumes, the melodious flute, a look, a movement, the transformation of scenes and changes of characters, all sing beautiful stories of Jiangsu. The aesthetic mood incisively and vividly reflects the refined interests and elegant literature of the long history of this place.

NOTE Kunqu Opera was selected by UNESCO as one of the first representative works of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2001.

Wooden Movable-type Printing

/ 雕版印刷

More than 1,300 years ago, wooden movable-type printing was invented in China. This ancient technique, which relies on people's hands throughout the whole process, is preserved only in Jiangsu. Nowadays, craftsmen reproduce the past text carvings with engraving and printing, which adds a nostalgic mood in reading.

NOTE Wooden movable-type printing of China was inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the UNESCO.

Other World Intangible Cultural Heritages of Jiangsu

- Guging (the plucked instrument)
- Paper-cutting
- The Dragon Boat Festival
- Chinese traditional architectural craftsmanship for timber-framed structures
- Sericulture and silk craftsmanship of China (represented by Chinese silk tapestry and Song brocade)



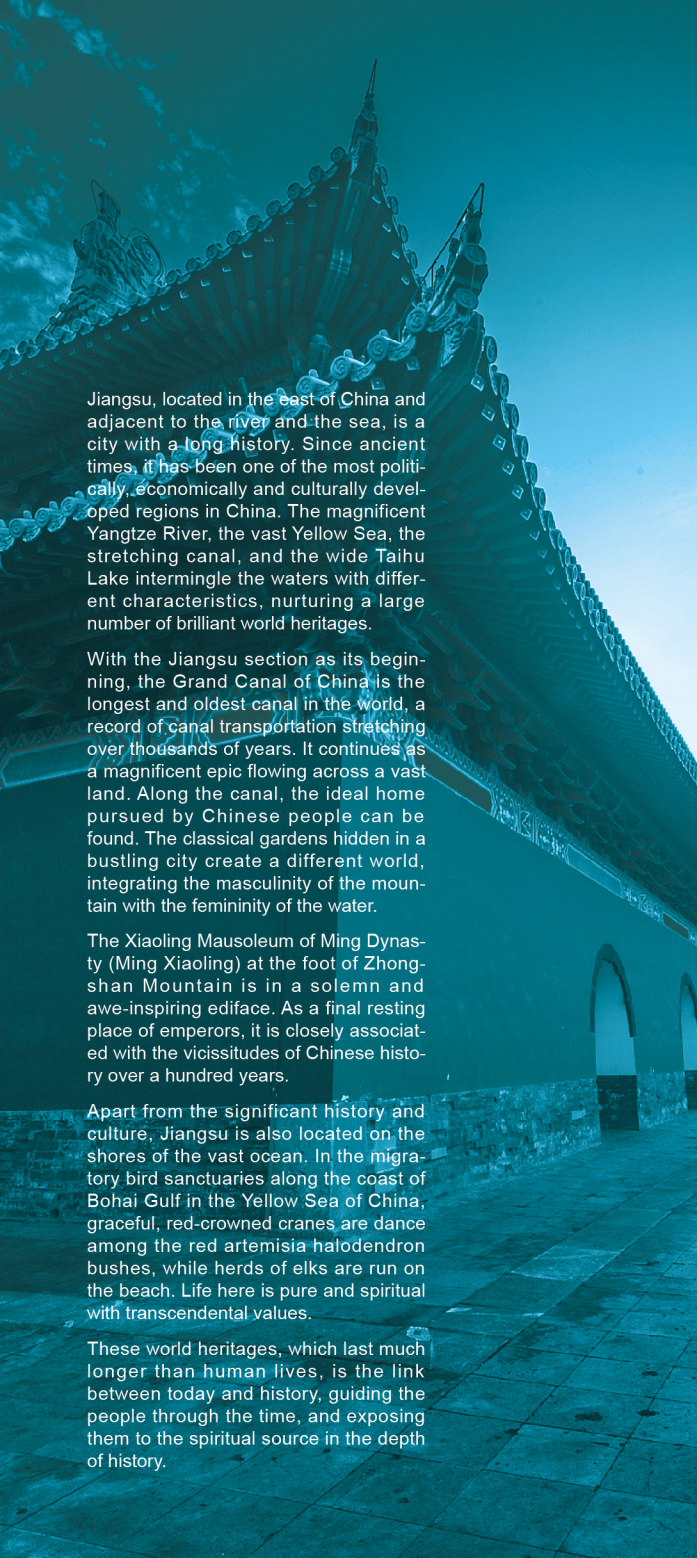
CHARM OF JIANGSU'S WORLD HERITAGE

水韻遺產



ENGLISH

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



Jiangsu, located in the east of China and adjacent to the river and the sea, is a city with a long history. Since ancient times, it has been one of the most politically, economically and culturally developed regions in China. The magnificent Yangtze River, the vast Yellow Sea, the stretching canal, and the wide Taihu Lake intermingle the waters with different characteristics, nurturing a large number of brilliant world heritages.

With the Jiangsu section as its beginning, the Grand Canal of China is the longest and oldest canal in the world, a record of canal transportation stretching over thousands of years. It continues as a magnificent epic flowing across a vast land. Along the canal, the ideal home pursued by Chinese people can be found. The classical gardens hidden in a bustling city create a different world, integrating the masculinity of the mountain with the femininity of the water.

The Xiaoling Mausoleum of Ming Dynasty (Ming Xiaoling) at the foot of Zhongshan Mountain is in a solemn and awe-inspiring edifice. As a final resting place of emperors, it is closely associated with the vicissitudes of Chinese history over a hundred years.

Apart from the significant history and culture, Jiangsu is also located on the shores of the vast ocean. In the migratory bird sanctuaries along the coast of Bohai Gulf in the Yellow Sea of China, graceful, red-crowned cranes are dance among the red artemisia halodendron bushes, while herds of elks are run on the beach. Life here is pure and spiritual with transcendental values.

These world heritages, which last much longer than human lives, is the link between today and history, guiding the people through the time, and exposing them to the spiritual source in the depth of history.



Ancient China witnessed ample complicated regulations and rituals, and the feudal rulers' requirements for royal funerals and grand ceremonies reached an extreme, making the imperial tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties the culmination of funeral culture. As the mausoleum at the beginning of Ming Dynasty, Ming Xiaoling established the architectural style and overall features followed by more than 20 imperial mausoleums in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. In addition, Ming Xiaoling follows the traditional feng shui concept of harmony between humanity and nature, which is a model of the combination of traditional Chinese architectural culture and natural environment.

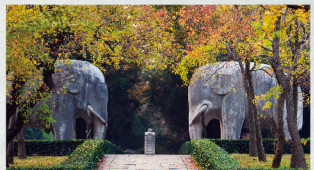
NOTE In 2003, The Xiaoling Mausoleum of Ming Dynasty (Ming Xiaoling) was inscribed on the World Heritage List as an extension of the Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties.



Exploration in Shen Dao (Sacred Way)

/ 神道探秘

Ming Xiaoling is the tomb where the Ming emperor Zhu Yuanzhang and his empress were buried together. To highlight the dignified status of the tomb owner, a "Shen Dao" was designed in front of the tomb. The 600-meter-long Shen Dao twists and turns, deeply and quietly. In a solemn and serious atmosphere, six stone animals stand opposite each other. The most beautiful time is in late autumn when the brownish yellow of parasol trees, the red of zelkova trees, and the yellow of ginkgo trees blend together. The sacred path, with its silent stone images, combines with the tourists appreciating the autumn scene, become a unified attractive scene.



江蘇古典園林 CLASSICAL GARDENS OF JIANGSU

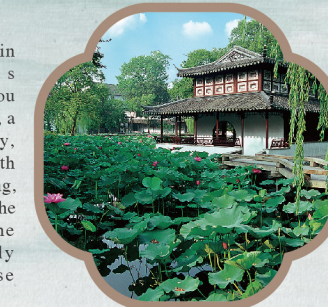
Architecture is a solid form of history, as are the gardens. The Classical Gardens in Jiangsu, built between the 16th and 18th centuries, reflect the depth of Chinese culture with their elaborate designs. Garden building is like dream creation, which takes pavilions, pagodas, ponds, rockery, trees and flowers as the main body, and is complemented by corridors, bridges, winding paths, and steles. Through gardens, people can get a hint of the poetic lifestyle that the Chinese literati in the past yearned for.

NOTE In 1997, Classical Gardens of Suzhou was inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Humble Administrator's Garden

/ 拙政園

As one of the four famous gardens in China, the Humble Administrator's Garden is also the epitome of Suzhou Classical Gardens. Wen Zhengming, a famous painter in Ming Dynasty, outlined the layout of the garden with traditional ink and brush. In the painting, the fresh and bright surroundings and the elegant natural environment of the garden has been shown, perfectly presenting the beauty of Chinese landscape painting.



The Wonder of the Waterscape 水景之妙

Water is the soul of Humble Administrator's Garden, in which scenes and water ingeniously add radiance and beauty to each other. The Small Flying Rainbow is a rare covered bridge in the garden, which connects the water with the land, creating a distinctive landscape centered on the bridge in one corner of the garden. The Hall of Raindrops is an intelligent use of a variety of sound of rain drops falling on different plants, creating a distant and profound artistic concept.

Lingering Garden

/ 留園

The Lingering Garden, located outside the old west gate of the city, was built during the Ming Dynasty. It is famous for its exquisite architectural art, which is shown by the grand and magnificent hall, the infinite variety of courtyards, and the superb Taihu stone "Guangyun-feng". The 700-meter-long corridor twists and turns along a wall, forming an art space of "gardens inside gardens with fascinating non-stop scenery", developing its own style among Suzhou Classical Gardens.



The "Leaking" View "漏"出來的風景

Because of superb building skills, the lattice windows in the Lingering Garden create a unique experience of "scenery changing with every step". Some of the windows are brick carving, some unbricked, and some are the rare wooden lattice windows. The view of the other side of the window is "leaking" in through the patterns, as if the scenery is flowing, connecting the breathtaking views both in and outside the garden.



Master-of-Nets Garden

/ 網師園

The Master-of-Nets Garden was first built in the Southern Song Dynasty of China. Hidden in the hustle and bustle, it has a compact layout and beautiful structure, with pavilions and terraces facing the water everywhere, presenting a sense of subtle beauty. It is the smallest one among all Suzhou Classical Gardens, but it is commented as "small but with extreme beauty" by experts and is praised as the most decent and complete Suzhou Garden.



Night Garden Tour 夜花園

The Master-of-Nets Garden is small and perfect for night excursions. Strolling in the garden, visitors could find that there are amazing performances in every hall. Compared with daytime, the Master-of-Nets at night has a unique charm. With melody hidden in the bamboo groves, and dance displayed in magnificent pavilion, melodious music and flipping sleeve cause visitors to feel as if they are traveling through time and space to appreciate the mixture of garden and music - truly fascinating.



Lion Forest Garden

/ 獅子林

The Lion Forest Garden is the only existing garden in Suzhou that was built in the Yuan Dynasty. In the garden, there are ample rockeries over which are various peculiar Taihu stones. On account of the lion-shape rockery and the special meaning of "lion roar" in the Buddhist scriptures, this classical garden, built by the disciples of Buddhism, has the name of "Lion Forest Garden".

Kingdom of Rockery 假山王國

Piling up stones to create mountains is one of the common methods to simulate natural landscape in Suzhou classical gardens. Large in scale and complexity, the rockery in Lion Forest Garden hence wins the reputation of the "Kingdom of Rockery". Taihu stones in thousands of positions are overwhelming, many of which are shaped like lying or standing lions, roaring or sleeping.

