

JIANGSU

Glimpses
Autumn Issue

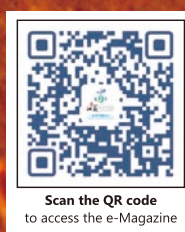


BUMPER HARVEST:
the Most Beautiful Painting
of the Land

Climbing and Recalling

FEAST IN AUTUMN
with Fragrance of Osmanthus

FLOWERS, MUSIC
AND FRAGRANCE
IN JIANGSU



Scan the QR code
to access the e-Magazine



Hushu Demonstration Zone of Modern Agriculture in Nanjing

WELCOME to Autumn in Jiangsu!

As should already be obvious, water is everywhere in Jiangsu. In this issue, we take you to a few of the watery highlights in autumn.

As something of an antithesis, we also herein turn to mountain trekking. Join us in scaling a few heights in Jiangsu, most very manageable for a fun afternoon workout while the weather is still perfect for outdoor activity. This year, the Double Ninth Festival fell in the National Day holiday. Data from TravelGo, a travel service platform, showed that mountaineering was the buzzword of sports tourism, with ticket bookings for mountainous scenic spots in Jiangsu up 32% year on year.

In Nanjing, most will first think of Purple Mountain, but we instead explore the charms of Mufu Mountain on the south bank of the Yangtze.

Elsewhere, everyone loves a monkey or two, right? So let's head north to Lianyungang, climb Mount Huaguoshan, hike up its highest peak, Yunv Peak and pose for a few pics with the little devils on the way.

Also in this issue, we shall scale Yunlong Mountain in Xuzhou and Beige Mountain in Zhenjiang, and other peaks which overlook the Yangtze.

Autumn would also not be autumn without a blaze of colour. Maple, chrysanthemum, sweet-scented osmanthus, to name but a few. But it is ginkgo that perhaps takes the crown as the defining colour of autumn in Jiangsu. At this time of year and as these pages are turned, there's more than a good chance that a golden ginkgo leaf shall descend onto them from above!

Waters also help make for the perfect habitat for milu deer, the protected and highly unusual species of deer in Yancheng. Herein, read all about why they call it "the four unlikenesses". Unusual it is, as is its environment, a pristine strip of coastline in eastern Jiangsu that boasts unspoilt coastal mudflats. There are deep forests, green grasses and colourful flowers, complimented by peaceful streams and deserted beaches.

Elsewhere, during our regular journey to Jiangsu's many museums, among the destinations in this issue is the former residence of Pearl S. Buck, the celebrated American author who won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1932 for *The Good Earth*.

Last but certainly not least, we can't leave you without mentioning autumn culinary delight, mooncake. Few other things define the Chinese calendar of cuisine more than these tasty morsels which never fail to captivate the nation through the tradition of gifting, and well, just plain old eating!

The waters and mountains of Jiangsu welcome you!



Autumn Issue

JIANGSU

Glimpses



Cover: Yeludang in Yancheng
Photographed by Yang Guomei

Chief Producer:

Jiangsu Provincial Department
of Culture and Tourism

Chief Planner:

Xinhua News Agency News
& Information Center Jiangsu Bureau

Responsible editor:

Frank Hossack	Xu Hua
Ju Shenshi	Ly Ke
Geng Chunxiao	Samantha
Zhang Jiajie	Wang Chao
Guo Manru	Chloe Jiang
Summer Liang	Clytie Shen
Victoria Tao	Christa Huang

Pictures Provided by:

Jiangsu Provincial Department of Culture
and Tourism
Hu Xiao, Lu Runqing, Relevant Enterprises
Special thanks to Fang Fei, Yao Xueyong,
Yang Bo, Yu Ping, Zhao Jie, Shao Dan,
Duan Renhu, Qian Ran, Liu Wei, Zhu Chen

01

GLOBAL VIEW OF CHARMING JIANGSU

World Heritage in the Eyes of Ecological
Photographers of Jiangsu

05

Climbing and Recalling

Clear and cool, autumn is the best season for
climbing, looking far and cherishing the past.

CLIMBING & RECALLING

- | | |
|----|---|
| 07 | Viewing the Sea and Admiring the Moon
at the Highest Peak in Jiangsu |
| 09 | Taste of Monkey King Culture in the Hometown
of Sun Wukong |
| 11 | Mountains and Lakes
Adding Radiance to Each Other |
| 13 | Three Famous Mountains
Alongside the Yangtze River |
| 15 | "Leaning Tower of Pisa" in the East |
| 17 | Aerial Views of Milu and Crane |
| 19 | The Four Unlikenesses
Up Close and Personal with David's Deer |
| 21 | Foshou Lake and Shuimodanian in the "Green Lung" |

23

Flowers, Music and Fragrance in Jiangsu

After autumn, the most beautiful colors are revealed
one by one as you walk into the mountains of Jiangsu.

COLOR OF AUTUMN

- | | |
|----|--|
| 25 | Mickey Mouse Once Came to Visit Shixiang Road |
| 27 | Aquatic Forest |
| 29 | Bumper Harvest: the Most Beautiful Painting
of the Land |
| 31 | The Fragrance of Paddy and Fruits |
| 33 | Ginkgo: Floral Emblem of Five Cities in Jiangsu |
| 35 | Osmanthus Flower: Perfume of Autumn in Jiangsu |
| 37 | Double Ninth Festival, Time for Chrysanthemums |
| 39 | Jiangsu: Home to Two of the Top Four
Major Maple Appreciation Resorts |

41

JIANGSU CUSINE

Feast in Autumn with Fragrance of Osmanthus

Autumn is the time to eat delicious crabs. Drinking
new wine, appreciating yellow chrysanthemums, and
enjoying the osmanthus flowers, foodies embrace their
favorite season featuring harvest and delicacies.

- | | |
|----|--|
| 43 | Shuibaxian: Present from Jiangnan |
| 45 | Taking a Bite of Autumn |
| 47 | Yangcheng Lake Hairy Crabs Catching Festival |
| 48 | Gaochun Gucheng Lake Crab Festival |
| 49 | Jiangsu Crabs |
| 51 | Aromatic Vinegar and Yellow Wine
—Best Match with Crabs |
| 52 | Nourishing Delicacies |
| 53 | Crab Delicacies |
| 55 | Fleshing out in Autumn |
| 57 | Mooncake & Double Ninth Cake |

59

MUSEUM AND FOLK

Rhyme and Poetry in Romantic Jiangsu

Let's walk into the former residences, museums and
memorial halls of these celebrities. Let's come to
Jiangsu to feel the past and the present, and met an
artistic and romantic Jiangsu.

- | | |
|----|---|
| 61 | Xu Beihong's Demeanour |
| 62 | Pearl S. Buck: Chinkiang Is My Home City |
| 63 | Visiting the Place Where the Author of
<i>A Dream of Red Mansions</i> was Born |
| 64 | Six Dynasties Through the Oriental
Metropolitan Museum |
| 65 | La La Land: Jiangsu Centre for the Performing Arts |
| 67 | Nanjing Poly Theatre, Designed by Zaha Hadid |
| 69 | The Moon Represents My Heart |
| 71 | Spending a Reunion |

Contents



World Heritage in the Eyes of Ecological Photographers of Jiangsu

—Huang Lu and Jiang Hanchao



China's Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf (Phase I) were inscribed on the World Heritage List as a natural site in July 2019 at the 43rd session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. As the 54th World Heritage Site in China, the area is located in Yancheng, Jiangsu Province, containing continuous mudflat seashore and coastal wetlands. It is the central node of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF), where millions of migratory birds all over the world rest, molt and live through the winter.

According to the geographical coordinates of Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase I), there are two heritage sites, namely, the Migratory Bird Habitat in the South of Yancheng, Jiangsu and the Migratory Bird Habitat in the North of Yancheng. It covers the following reserves, Yancheng Rare Birds National Nature Reserve, Dafeng Milu Nature Reserve, the Tiaozini Wetland Park, Dongtai Tiaozini Wetland Protection District, and Dongtai Silt-Muddy Beach

Wetland Protection District.

The milu deer calling, red-crowned cranes gracefully dancing, critically endangered spoon-billed sandpipers leisurely perching and golden red saltmarsh grass field. Yellow Sea Wetland of Yancheng is covered with the most beautiful colors in this autumn. The snaps which won many domestic and international photography awards, bring environmental photographers into the spotlight.

Photographers are also ecological researchers, showing the magical charm of biodiversity on the wetland. As nature recorders, they shoot first-hand images of rare species day and night despite risks and difficulties. They are also environmental volunteers, encouraging others and leading the social conduct with their own actions.

Picking up the camera, they capture the spirit of the wetlands with light and shadow, strengthening connectivity

between Yellow Sea Wetland and the rest of the world. They also share the ecological story of the land with the world. Now, let's learn more about the story of photographers Yang Guomei and Sun Huajin in Jiangsu.

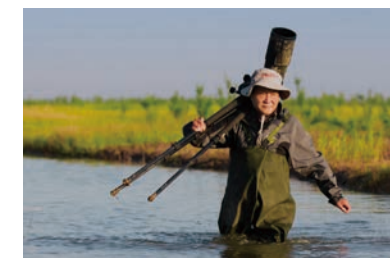
In the late afternoon of autumn when the rain came in a sudden, Yang Guomei, 77, was no longer calm. "What is the state of milu deer after the rain?" After settling down the international guests who came to visit Dafeng Milu National Nature Reserve, Yang rushed towards the fence with his film camera.

Inside the fence, milu deer ran back and forth at will. Seeing a flock of milu deer running head-on, "Here's the chance!" Yang who had been hiding outside the fence to observe, disregarded the water over his feet and immediately got down on the ground and "clicked" a few shots.

After the photos were developed, one of them stood out. The soft sunshine pours a very flood into the obscure forest, gladden-

ing leaves and grass after the rain. Surrounded by greenery, milu deer, male and female are running and stirring up silver-white waves. The picture, showing the dynamic beauty of milu deer, grabbed several domestic and international photography awards, and was exhibited in many countries including Britain, the United States and France, becoming an art classic of Chinese ecological civilization.

When Yang took the post of deputy governor of Dafeng County in May 1986, one of his important tasks was to prepare for the establishment of the world's first milu deer reserve.



Photographed by Yang Guomei



"Then let's start by letting more people know and love milu deer." Yang Guomei, a photography enthusiast, has his camera with him, wherever he goes. His works unfold a new world of milu deer where they spend quality time with family, coexist with birds in harmony or compete for mates.

Over the past 36 years, Yang has taken a number of photos of milu deer. Several hundred have been awarded or exhibited in more than 80 countries and regions on six

been "gazing" at birds for nearly 20 years. If birds can speak, Sun must be considered as the most loving human partner by birds.

With rainbow in the sky, the male crane holding dry grass in mouth suddenly leapt up with strong wings. It was the moment when Sun Huajin, who was lying in the reeds by the pond, pressed the shutter decisively. This picture vividly showed the beauty of red-crowned cranes. It won the silver medal in the World Rare Bird Photography Competition, and was presented in many exhibitions at home and abroad.

Yancheng is home to more than 400 species of birds. Sun Huajin, an associate professor, has recorded more than 300 species. His photos have been compiled as a photographic guide to the birds of Yancheng, frequently cited by UNESCO, Xinhua News Agency, National Geographic, and the Daily Telegraph.

In Tiaozini, Dongtai, you can often see Sun Huajin carrying a telephoto lens on his shoulder and a tripod in his hand. He spends a quarter of a year on the mudflats. "The

beauty of Yellow Sea Wetland varies every moment", said him.

It is with his obsession that Sun Huajin shot a wonderful and rare scenery of "Wetland Forest". Under the blue sky and white clouds, the seawater scoured the mud and sand of the wetland year after year to form "towering trees" of various shapes, just like a spectacular "forest" scene. This photo, displaying the uncanny workmanship of nature's masterpieces, has been selected for many domestic and international exhibitions and appeared on the cover of *Chinese National Geography*.

At 41, Yang Guomei set the goal of "saving" milu deer with photos. Now at the age of 77, he is still chasing his dream. Dressed in a camouflage and a pair of long boots, he lies prone in the near primitive grass to look for traces of milu deer after getting up at 3 am. He kept still for hours despite coldness, summer heat and sunburn, mosquitoes and poisonous insects.



Learning to use computers in his 60s and aerial photography in his 70s, Yang spares no effort to record milu deer and their living environment. "Once seeing milu deer, Yang becomes the fastest runner." Yang's tenacity has been highly recognized and hailed among photographers.

Though not a professional photographer, Yang has won the China Golden Photograph Award for his "Milu Story".

From "shouldering responsibilities for the state" to "introducing Chinese milu deer to the world," his dream is gradually coming true. The reserve has been elevated to the "national level" as the population of milu deer has grown from 39 to over 7,000, accounting for more than 60% of the world's total. In the reserve, the "sacred animals of China" live and reproduce freely.

"There is no good photo without long-time waiting and perseverance." Sun Huajin understands the hardships and difficulties behind these words, and he also had the experience of being trapped in danger. After waiting for the black-faced spoonbills in ponds, searching snow geese in wheat fields

and seeking reed parrotbills in thick beds of reeds, he managed to film sandhill cranes, the first on-spot picture captured in China, as well as world-endangered Saunders's Gull. He discovered and shot all the Asian species of dalmatian pelican for the first time. Sun's painstaking efforts provide important scientific evidence of rare bird species on Yellow Sea Wetland.

"At the very beginning, we could only shoot a few dozen wild cormorants in Yancheng, but now we can shoot tens of thousands of them. A few years ago, it was nearly impossible to find nesting sites of Saunders's Gulls all over the city. But now there are at least 2,000 pairs of Saunders's Gulls nesting here." Sun is pleased that the ecological environment is getting better and better, and the number of birds on Yellow Sea Wetland is increasing day by day. He said with relief that "it is so important to protect this land."

Now as a member of the China Wildlife Conservation Association, he has been hired by Nikon as a lecturer in China. He has traveled to Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and many other places to introduce the concept of ecological photography and promote the great wetland.

Yellow Sea Wetland has become a source of inspiration for environmental photographers, thus attracting more and more photographers who act as friendly envoys of Yellow Sea Wetland to the world.



Photographed by *Sun Huajin*

Climbing and Recalling

— Geng Chunxiao

Clear and cool, autumn is the best season for climbing, looking far and cherishing the past. As the poet Liu Yuxi of the Tang Dynasty once wrote, "A mount needs not be high; it becomes noted when on it fairies dwell." Although there are no high mountains in Jiangsu, there is no lack of famous mountains.

Especially at the Chongyang Festival or Double Ninth Festival, celebrated on the 9th day of the ninth month on lunar Chinese calendar, Jiangsu people tend to climb high and overlook rivers. The customs include appreciating beautiful scenes, praying, reciting poems, enjoying chrysanthemums, and wearing cornel. Such customs combine tourism and culture and become a great scenery line. In addition to the famous mountains and lakes, the ancient towns, streets and former residences of celebrities are the good places to recall the past and reflect on the present.

As Confucius once said, "The wise man delights in water. The good man delights in mountains." Li Bai, a romantic poet of the Tang Dynasty once ascended Swallow Promontory to overlook the Yangtze River. Taking the stone as a bottle and the river water as wine, he asked the sky and left the story of "swallowing the river and getting drunk on the stone".

Five kilometers towards the southwest from Swallow Promontory is Mufu Mountain, where the Nanjing International Mountaineering Festival was held once again this year. Another 5 kilometers to the southwest is Yuejiang Tower at the top of Lion Mountain, a great place to view the scenery of the river and mountains. When standing at the top of Mufu Mountain, we can see the vast river view stretching in front of us. What comes into view is as magnificent as the lines describe, "In speed a hundred barges vie; Far and wide eagles cleave the blue; Up and down

fish in shallows glide; All creatures strive for freedom under frosty skies." We will be as enthusiastic now as poets were thousand years ago. As Liu Yuxi put it, "Ever since old, autumn has made man feel lonely; And yet I say that autumn is better than spring."

The mountains and the waters have created Jiangsu as a land of treasure and cradle of talents. Jiangsu has nourished numerous celebrities and witnessed their anecdotes. There was a close bond between those celebrities recorded in the history books and the famous mountains in Jiangsu, such as Li Bai, Su Shi, Xin Qiji, Liu Bang and Xiang Yu. The famous people's stories have added splendor to the attraction sites in Jiangsu. It is highly recommended to embrace "charm of Jiangsu" and appreciate the beautiful mountain landscape. The beauty lies not only in natural scenery of forests in a deep dye and fresh air, but also in the humanity and heritage.

Viewing the Sea and Admiring the Moon at the Highest Peak in Jiangsu

— Frank Hossack

Yunv Peak, the highest peak in Jiangsu, is the main peak of Mount Huaguoshan, located in Lianyungang. With an altitude of 624.4 meters, it is the perfect place to appreciate the moon on the Mid-Autumn Festival night in Jiangsu.

It is in the east of Lianyungang as part of Yuntai Mountain. Huaguoshan means a place rich in flowers and fruits. It is a famous scenic spot vividly depicted in the story of China's classic story *the Journey to the West*. It's the home of the Monkey King in the story. When you climb to the summit of Yunv Peak, you will meet a "nymph" holding a ruyi, a symbolic scepter of good fortune in graceful clothes amid the misty clouds and forest.

Overlooking the mountain, the white clouds are scudding like rising sea waves, and the exposed peak looks like Penglai Island, a legendary coastal fair-yl-land in the sea. Maybe it is the charm of the mountain and sea that served as the source of inspiration for Wu Cheng'en to write *the Journey to the West*, for Wu Jingzi to write *the Scholars* and Li Ruzhen to write *Flowers in the Mirror*.

At this year's Mid-Autumn Festival, a reunion banquet was held at Yunv Peak. In the bright moonlight, visitors felt like they were in heaven's palace while enjoying the beautiful music and pleasant dance. With the accompany

of the moon, they were enjoying a mid-autumn feast integrating traditional culture and the characteristics of *the Journey to the West*.

Lianyungang was founded as Haizhou in 549. Lianyungang derives its name from Liandao Island, the largest island in Jiangsu and Yuntai Mountain, the highest in the province. Sitting just off the coast, the island also provides for a large natural harbor, now developed into one of China's largest ports, "gang" means "port" in Chinese. Lianyungang is also the eastern terminus of the New Eurasian Land Bridge, sending freight trains off to Europe on an almost daily basis.

Daweijian Mountain, the 2nd highest peak in Jiangsu, is the main peak of Yuntai Mountain, not far from Mount Huaguoshan. It is the only scenic spot in Jiangsu to be inscribed in Chinese National Geographic's list of "Immortal Mountains on the Sea". When looking the sea here, what will come into view is the mountain merging with the boundless sea in the clouds and mist as well as Liandao Island, the largest island in Jiangsu Province.

Yuntai Mountain was originally islands in the Yellow Sea, which was later connected to the mainland. The magnificent mountain is bounded by the sea on three sides. It is an excellent place to view the mountain and sea, where visitors can also see its ancient and peculiar

marine abrasion landform, precious and rare wildlife, the landscape of Yellow Sea and the varied mirages.

Apart from Mount Huaguoshan full of mythological stories, there is also Kongwang Mountain where Confucius watched the sea.

Kongwang Mountain is located to the east of Haizhou Ancient City in Lianyungang. More than 2,000 years ago, when Confucius was traveling around the countries, he came to Haizhou and stood by the sea, viewing the vast expanse of the sea. It was when he expressed his sentiments that "Time passes by like this, flowing away day and night", spreading through the ages. Since then, this mountain near the sea has got its name as Kongwang Mountain.

This ancient mountain has both the footprints of Confucius and the ruins of the East Sea God Temple of Taoism, especially the Buddhist cliff statues of the Eastern Han Dynasty. They have been proven by experts and scholars to be one of the earliest Buddhist cliff statues in China, more than two centuries earlier than the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang. The cliff statues reveal that Lianyungang was already a key site and the meeting point of the land and maritime Silk Roads as early as in the Han Dynasty. Currently, on the east part of the New Eurasian Land Bridge, it is also an important city on the world-class Silk Road tourism belt.

Taste of Monkey King Culture in the Hometown of Sun Wukong

—Youssef Elmeknassi from The Kingdom of Morocco
Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics student

After the solar term of Start of Autumn in August, we embarked on a journey to explore Jiangsu's beautiful scenery and intangible cultural heritages. This time we were heading to Lianyungang City, the northeast of Jiangsu Province, the location of the highest peak and the first sea-crossing bridge in Jiangsu Province.

The first stop is Mount Huaguoshan. Its location was not a random choice since Mount Huaguoshan is mentioned in *the Journey to the West*, one of the four great classical novels in China. According to the legend of Sun Wukong or Monkey King as mentioned in the epic novel, Sun Wukong was living underneath the mountain with his monkey subjects. Carrying the spirit of progressiveness, Sun Wukong is the right emblem symbolizing the fast development

of the city of Lianyungang.

We climbed to Yunv Peak, the highest peak in Jiangsu Province, where we visited queer rocks, enjoyed the intangible cultural heritage and recreated the scene of *the Journey to the West*.

Mai Li, from Pakistan, said excitedly, "I have known the book *the Journey to the West* for a long time, and I am very glad to visit Mount Huaguoshan in Lianyungang, the hometown of the Monkey King. The scenery here is beautiful, and it feels really wonderful!"

The interesting interactive sections of "Monkey King Learns Magic", "Immortal Grass" and "Two Tang Monks" bring the plot of the novel to reality, which makes us feel like we are in a mythical world and deeply appreci-

ate the mysterious stories and unique charm of Chinese traditional culture.

The section of "Immortal Grass" aroused everyone's desire to win, and we found immortal grass in the Water Curtain Cave, and deepened our understanding and memory of traditional Chinese medicines.

Mohammed Fadhl Mohammed al-Zubar from Yemen expressed great surprise, "I used to read *the Journey to the West*. Now I visit the prototype of the story, and I feel that all the magical things in the book are on hand. It's so interesting!" Zubar was so excited that he even learned the classic movements of Sun Wukong on the spot, which made us laugh.

Later on, we were on our way to visit the

tive can make use of Lianyungang, a unique Oriental seaport city, to continuously expand exchanges and cooperation, and jointly tell a new story about the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative." said Suleymanova Elvira from Uzbekistan.

The next destination was Lianyun Old Street, with unique architecture of this place. Ismail, an international student of Southeast University majored in architecture, explained to us the neoclassical style houses and shops.

Meanwhile our friend Elvira and Defeng were introducing the ancient town through live broadcasting. On our way we visited a museum where we attended a show of classical opera.

NeetaVanmari from South Africa said, "I've been in Jiangsu for five years, and I like traveling very much. There are many excellent tourist cities in Jiangsu. I will experience the local culture everywhere and share with my family and friends."

The last destination was Lianyungang Museum of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Traditional medicine plays a major role in the Chinese society, first due to the long history of the Chinese civilization. Second, medicines based on natural elements such

as herbs and roots are preferred to industrial medicine. We visited the museum of traditional Chinese medicine, where we have been introduced briefly to some natural medicines to heal heat, cough, headache, skin moisturizer and many more items. The luckiest of us got a personal treatment for regularizing blood pressure, neck pain, and posture fixture.

Flores Baena Alicia, from Mexico, showed great interest in Chinese medicine during her visit: "Chinese medicine is full of historical and cultural connotations. I think it will be new and magical to appreciate Chinese culture from this perspective."

This is my first visit to Lianyungang. I've awarded Lianyungang as the economic and scenic pearl of Jiangsu Province. I have been amazed by what Jiangsu can offer, and I will always be amazed by what is to be discovered.

TIPS

Lianyun Old Street

Tel: 0518-82339017

Transportation: 40 km from Lianyungang Railway Station, 1 hour's drive



Mountains and Lakes Adding Radiance to Each Other

— Guo Manru

Xuzhou is one of the Nine Provinces in ancient China and the earliest city in Jiangsu. In Yao and Shun times, it was said that Peng Zu, who had lived for 800 years, established the Great Peng State here. Therefore, Xuzhou was called Pengcheng in ancient times, which was the home country of Peng, the hometown of Liu Bang and the former capital of Xiang Yu's kingdom. Xuzhou's natural scenery has the characteristics of both northern and southern beauty. The mountains surround the city, and the city is surrounded by mountains.

In the southern part of Xuzhou, there is an ancient mountain, Yunlong Mountain. The highest peak of Yunlong Mountain is 142 meters above

sea level, and its mountain is winding and undulating, like a wandering dragon. Besides the pleasant natural scenery, there are many precious historical and cultural heritage sites, such as the Giant Stone Buddha excavated in the Northern Wei Dynasty, former residence of Zhang Shanren, Fanghe Pavilion, Yinhe Spring in the Northern Song Dynasty and so on.

Scholars of different dynasties have visited Yunlong Mountain one after another, adding a lot of romance to it. When Su Dongpo, also known as Su Shi, a literary giant in the Song Dynasty, was appointed as the prefecture of Xuzhou, he visited

Yunlong Mountain with his friends many times, indulged in the landscape and composed wonderful poems.

If you want to appreciate the most elegant autumn scenery of Yunlong Mountain, you can't miss Fanghe Pavilion at the top of the mountain. Here, Su Shi wrote *On Fanghe Pavilion*.

Immersing yourself in nature at the top of Fanghe Pavilion, together with the verdant ancient trees, you can savor the broad mind of Su Shi and Zhang Shanren thousands of years ago, and appreciate the tranquility and beauty of autumn in Xuzhou. At the foot of Yunlong Mountain, you can also visit Yunlong Lake to enjoy the wonderful scenery between lake and mountain.

Xima Terrace is also a good place for climbing and recalling. Its name dates back to more than two thousand years ago. In 206 BC, after Xiang Yu conquered the Qin Dynasty, he established himself as the Great Conquer of Western Chu and established Pengcheng as the capital, which is



now Xuzhou. On the Nanshan Mountain in the south of the city, Xiang Yu built this building. Behind the Fengyun Pavilion at the top of Xima Terrace, there is Chongjiutai set up for the ancient travelers to climb at Chongyang Festival on the ninth day of the ninth month in the Chinese calendar. On the high-top terrain, you can overlook the whole ancient city. More than 700 years ago, when Wen Tianxiang, a poet of the Southern Song Dynasty, wrote *the Travel Notes on Xima Terrace*, perhaps it was here that he overlooked and then began to feel nostalgic.

In the ancient city of Xuzhou, which has a history of more than 5,000 years of civiliza-

tion and more than 2,600 years history of city construction, there are countless stories and historic sites. Thousands of years of history has given birth to Xuzhou's unique cultural characteristics. In addition to the remains of Han tombs, Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses of Han Dynasty and the stone relief in Han Dynasty, which reflect the cultural characteristics of Han Dynasty in Xuzhou. We can also go to Dafengge Square in Peixian County to pursue the Chu style and Han charm and to feel the magnificent and generous style described in the poem "a great wind came forth, the clouds rose on high" written by Emperor Liu Bang of the Han Dynasty.

TIPS

Opening hours: 07:00-21:00

Tel: 0516-83960925

Transportation: 5 km from Xuzhou Railway Station, 20 minutes' drive

Three Famous Mountains Alongside the Yangtze River

— Zhang Jiajie

Who by the riverside did first see the moon rise? When did the moon first see a man by riverside? With mighty autumn wind and rolling river, the Yangtze River flows thousands of miles through Zhenjiang. The Yangtze River is majestic at its feet and the canal is mighty in its arms. The confluence of rivers and the blending of the north and the south make Zhenjiang full of elegance and tenderness, along with countless beautiful scenery.



Jinshan Hill is beautiful, Jiaoshan Mountain grand, Beigu Mountain steep... You can climb the famous mountains, raise your glass to the moon, express your feelings, and make a pledge. If you spend the "moonlit night on the autumn river" in a landscape like Zhenjiang, your pride and heroism will well out!

Jinshan Hill, originally an island in the Yangtze River, began to connect with the land on the south bank only more than 200 years ago. Jinshan Hill not only has scenic spots such as Jiangtian Buddhist Temple, Zhongling Spring, Cishou Pagoda, Pagoda Shadow Lake, Baihua Island, but also is full of historical legends and myths. On the hill, Jinshan Temple is even more famous with a history of 1,600 years.

Su Shi, a writer in the Song dynasty, had a special fondness for Zhenjiang. At the Mid-Autumn Festival, he invited his literary friends to hold a moon-gazing party at Jinshan Miaogao Pavilion. The poets sang *Prelude to Water Melody* which he had written in Shandong Province while drinking and dancing under the moon. They composed a lot of beautiful poems.

In autumn, the layers of forest on Jiaoshan Mountain are dyed, just like a jasper floating in the middle of the Yangtze River. "Huayan Moonlight" is the most poetic and picturesque scenery among the sixteen scenes of Jiaoshan Mountain. While enjoying the moon over the Yangtze River in Huayan Pavilion on the mountain, you can see that the sky is clear and bright between heaven and earth, and the waves on the river reflect

each other. It is as if you are in a crystal world or in a fairyland.

"Reaching for the Moon on Beigu Mountain" has a history of more than a thousand years. Standing on Beigu Mountain, you can see that the bright moon and the river reflect each other. Beigu Mountain is like a dreamy world. It is a good place for ancient men of letters to rest, drink tea, enjoy the scenery and admire the moon.

Beigu Mountain, located on the north riverside of Zhenjiang City, is only 50 meters above sea level, but the mountain ridge and the stone walls are towering. During the Three Kingdoms Period, Sun Quan built Tieweng City here. Today, when climbing to the top of this mountain, you can still see historic sites everywhere. Pavilions and mountain roads on Beigu Mountain are all related to the history and legends of the Three Kingdom Period. At the foot of the mountain rest Lu Su and Taishi Ci, Sun Quan's famous official and famous general in the Kingdom of Eastern Wu. On the top of the mountain, the ruthless stone upstairs had listened to Liu Bei and Sun Quan's discussion on conquering Cao Cao. The North Peak is the steepest, where Sun Quan and Liu Bei held a horse racing. The ubiquitous historical traces have given Beigu Mountain the reputation of "Three Kingdoms Mountains".

Xin Qiji, a poet of the Southern Song Dynasty, once climbed Beigu Mountain in autumn. Because of the emerging of inspirations, he wrote, "I gaze beyond the Northern Tower in vain. It has seen

dynasties fall and rise. As time flies or as the endless river rolls before my eyes" and many other well-known poems.

Today's Beigu Mountain, together with Jinshan Hill and Jiaoshan Mountain, has become a "Three-Mountain" scenic spot in Zhenjiang and a national 5A tourist attraction, which wins it great reputation.



TIPS

Jinshan Hill

Opening hours: 06:00-18:00

Tel: 0511-85512992

Transportation: 4 km from Zhenjiang Railway Station, 10 minutes' drive

Jiaoshan Mountain

Opening hours: 06:00-18:00

Tel: 0511-88817103

Transportation: 10 km from Zhenjiang Railway Station, 20 minutes' drive

Beigu Mountain

Opening hours: 06:00-18:00

Tel: 0511-88858088

Transportation: 5 km from Zhenjiang Railway Station, 12minutes' drive

"Leaning Tower of Pisa" in the East

— Frank Hossack

Suzhou people can't miss to come to Tiger Hill to appreciate Ginkgo Avenue in autumn. The great writer Su Dongpo, also known as Su Shi, once wrote that "it would be a pity not to visit Tiger Hill in Suzhou". Tiger Hill is close to the canal channel. Though being 30 meters high, it is one of the best-known mountains in Jiangnan.



According to records, Helyu, King of Wu, was buried here. It is said that there was a "white tiger squatting on it" three days after the burial, hence it was named Tiger Hill. The most famous scenic spot in Tiger Hill is the Yunyan Temple Pagoda. The pagoda has a history of more than a thousand years. It's the world's second most tilted tower. It has long been a symbol of ancient Suzhou and is also known as the "Leaning Tower of Pisa" in the East.

In the golden autumn season, Suzhou has held the 4th Grand Canal Culture and Tourism Expo, where the world's great rivers were presented in the ancient city of Suzhou. After the opening ceremony, international guests enjoyed the night at Tiger Hill.

Few words capture the spirit of Suzhou's Pingjiang Road better than "enchanting". Smelling the fragrance of osmanthus flowers in Suzhou when standing on Pingjiang Road, visitors can relive the old and explore the Song Dynasty.

For many centuries, Pingjiang Road has been the center of much of Suzhou's cultural life. A map produced in 1229 C.E. teaches us that the road was already the ancient city's main

thoroughfare. Indeed, Pingjiang is one of Suzhou's former names.

And that's what brings in the tourists to this classical Jiangnan water village, communities defined by the intermingling of cobbled paths and canals. It's a veritable Chinese painting, one in which typical houses of ancient Suzhou stand simple and unsophisticated by the street, their white walls stained by the rain's ink brushwork from their black roof tiles.

A shade over 1.6 kilometers long and running parallel with the Pingjiang River. On the river, only the slimmest of Chinese gondolas can effectively navigate.

They pass under no less than 18 arched stone bridges. Here, any self-respecting Suzhou bride shall sit for her wedding photos. For those unattached or wed long ago, these bridges provide for the perfect place for contemplation, reflections in the waters that have sat below for 800 years. In 2005, Pingjiang Historic Street was awarded the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. In 2009, it was listed as the China's

famous historical and cultural street, among the first batch of streets in China which grabbed the title.

Sounds great, but eager foreign visitors should perhaps learn about some tips. There's a Starbucks. There are shops selling trinkets. There are museums and watering holes. Some are not ancient Chinese elements, but Pingjiang Road does know where the limit is to the extent that no one should be put off. And in these old residences there is still no shortage of art galleries, cafes, teahouses, opera houses and youth hostels with both dorm rooms and private accommodation for backpackers.

But just as interesting as the road itself are the 51 alleys. You won't find any coffee chains here; instead it's just a simple life going on as it has passed for centuries.

Of course, Pingjiang Road is not the only such street in Suzhou. In 2015, it joined Shantang Street in being two of 30 such scenic areas added to another list of such national historic and cultural streets.

But a BBC travel article has described Pingjiang Road as perhaps the preferable of the two, it being less touristy than Shantang Street. The article furthermore states that Pingjiang Road is "lined with houses that embody Suzhou's style, graceful, simple and timeless. Pingjiang Road gives an insight into the leisurely existence of the city's residents. It is a center of Suzhou's artistic life, lined with bookshops and local opera theaters. There are also several teahouses, where people gather for performances of traditional storytelling and ballad singing".

And let's not forget another activity which seems to be taking place at every corner along Pingjiang Road, painting. The setting so idyllic and serene, it is most difficult to distinguish whether people are painting or are a part of the painting.

A good place from which to start a visit to Pingjiang Road is the Suzhou Museum, one of the most visited museums in the world designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect, I.M. Pei. In addition to the delights therein, the museum also serves as a hint of what is to come.

Aerial Views of Milu and Crane

— Carol from Netherlands
University of Amsterdam Student
Photographed by Sun Huaqin

In 2019, I once watched a popular Chinese documentary Aerial China. Following the aerial camera, my eyes went from Qinshan Island in the Yellow Sea to Yancheng Wetland, and from colorful salt fields which look like eyeshadow palettes to Cape of Yuantuo at the mouth of the Yangtze River. The beautiful appearance of Jiangsu gradually became clear during the air journey.



What impressed me most is Yancheng, Jiangsu Province. It has no mountains, a relatively uncommon phenomenon among Chinese cities, but Yancheng has a collection of beautiful scenery such as the sea of flowers, forests, oceans and wetlands. It is worthy of being the capital of wetlands in the East.

I used to observe the cuteness of Milu at close range in the National Park De Biesbosch in the Netherlands.

In Dafeng, Yancheng, you will encounter the world's largest population of wild Milu. Dafeng is a natural habitat for Milu, and it has the largest wild reed marshes to the north of the Yangtze River. As the world's largest Milu reserve, Dafeng Milu Nature Reserve has announced that the total number of Milu in the reserve has exceeded 7,000, accounting for nearly 70% of the world's Milu population.

The Milu calls; the red-crowned crane dances; the Eurynorhynchus pygmeus strolls...On the Yellow Sea wetlands of Yancheng in autumn, the "Three Prosperity Gems" live at ease. Among them, the Eurynorhynchus pygmeus, with a spoon-shaped mouth, has become a "wetland star" with its cute appearance and very small population.

In autumn, Milu like red color — while gathering in the

Salt Artemisia, the red pigment in their hair increase, which helps to keep their body warm during the winter.

In the aerial view, the Tiaozini Wetland in Dongtai City, which is located in the core area of Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase I), is also dazzling. The unique wetland landscape of Tiaozini and the red salt artemisia are organically integrated, which is amazing.

The Dutch Flower Sea in Dafeng is like a colorful painting in the aerial view. It is well-known throughout the country for more than 300 varieties and more than 30 million



plants of tulips. These tulip bulbs were brought by Tolek, a Dutch hydraulician, more than 100 years ago, which shows that Jiangsu and the Netherlands have a deep association.

The year 2022 coincides with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Netherlands. This autumn, two "Nanjing ships" carrying the Qinhuai Lanterns, China's intangible cultural heritage, set sail in the canals of Giethoorn, Netherlands. It is also the first non-European city to participate in the centennial intangible cultural heritage festival of Netherlands "the Night Gondola Ride".

The event attracted more than 20,000 European audiences. One of the "Nanjing ships" chose a Nanjing landmark the "Porcelain Tower of Nanjing" and "butterfly" as key design elements. The Porcelain Tower of Nanjing was built in 1412 and it is famous in Europe for the travel books by the

Dutch traveler Johan Nieuhof. "Butterfly" is an important theme of Shi Zhu Zhai Jian Pu, a precious ancient Chinese book collecting various types of Jian Pu (letter papers printed with poems and paintings). Since its debut in 1644 in Nanjing, this masterpiece has been studied by European collectors.

Another ship brought beautiful Chinese songs such as *What a Beautiful Jasmine Flower*, *How Rare the Moon* and *Colourful Clouds Chasing the Moon*, which attracted the audience at the scene. It is expected that there will be more exchange activities in the future, so that the Dutch people can understand and visit Jiangsu.

TIPS

Dongtai Tiaozini Wetland
Opening hours: 08:30-17:30
Tel: 0515-85680999
Transportation: 70 km from Dongtai Railway Station, 1 hour and 10 minutes' drive

THE FOUR UNLIKENESSES

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH DAVID'S DEER

— Frank Hossack
Photographed by Yang Guomei



Dafeng Milu National Nature Reserve, Yancheng City is the largest Milu nature reserve in the world. It has the largest wild Milu population and has established the largest Milu gene bank in the world. It has been listed in the List of Wetlands of International Importance by the United Nations.

Milu is a large herbivore native to China. The earliest hometown of Milu is the swamps of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River and the Yellow River, especially along the coast near the Yangtze River Estuary, where large tracts of grass and water plants grow. Milu like to live in groups and exercise in warm and humid plains, swamps and waters, especially fond of mud bathing, swimming, contacting with sea water, feeding on seaweed and aquatic plants.

Since the return of 39 Milu from Britain in 1986, the population of Milu in the reserve has reached 7,000. Once extinct in China, these wetland elves once again run

in groups in the wilderness of Jiangsu coastal beach-lands, providing a successful example for human beings to save endangered species.

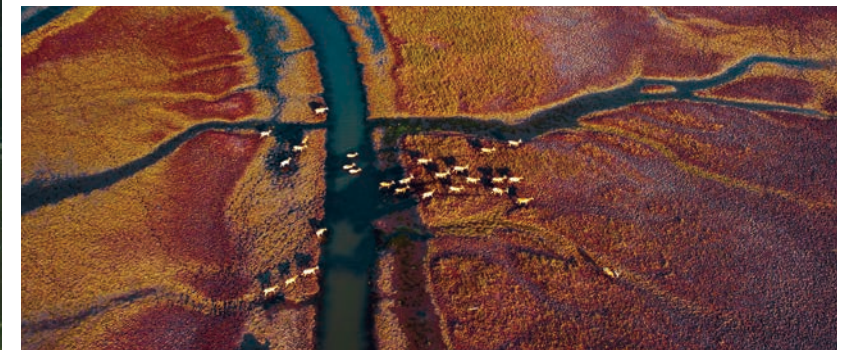
Part deer, part horse, part cow, part donkey; say hello to the "Milu", or "Père David's Deer". Outside of China, it was the French missionary, Armand David, who brought the zoological oddity to the attention of the world in 1866.

The ancient Chinese novel, *The Investiture of the Gods*, speaks of a crane walking with "four unlikeness". Other longer versions say, "The nose of a cow but not a cow, the antlers of a deer but not a deer, the body of a donkey but not a donkey, the tail of a horse but not a horse." Those "four unlikenesses" are what set the Milu apart from other deer species. While there is really no precise way to accurately age deer other than by their teeth, with male Milu their age

can be determined by their antlers. In the first 5 years of its life, one branch shall be added to the main antler beam each year. Latterly, between one and four smaller, sub branches shall grow each year.

As for that donkey reference, that's down to the length of a Milu's tail. Most deer species' tails grow to no more than 10 centimeters in length, but Milu can grow theirs over three times longer. Used to aid balance, it's also handy for swatting away blood-sucking insects.

Then there are the cloven hooves of the Milu, shaped like those of cows. And being webbed too helps the Milu to avoid sinking into the ground when walking on its homeland's soft, muddy terrain. As a result, the Milu are also top swimmers. Some believe



that they are able to swim across the Yangtze River!

And what about that long, horse-like face? Milu love water plants and evolution has provided them with a long snout to happily graze 30-40 centimeters below water, which also explains why their eyes are in the upper third of the face.

While the Milu can be found in a score of countries worldwide, Dafeng Milu National Nature Reserve is their primary home.

Just as with most other reserves, Dafeng Milu Nature Reserve also safeguards other species; nearly 300 other types of animals live on these coastal lands.

Among them, the White Egret have an

especially intimate relationship with the Milu. Very often, one or two of the white sea birds will stand on a Milu's back with an easy grace. Even while Milu are galloping, the egrets will not easily leave their furry perch. The two animals, elves in Dafeng, have co-existed since ancient times.



Chinese Milu Park
Opening hours: 08:30-17:30
Tel: 0515-83391999
Transportation: 70 km from Yancheng Dafeng Railway Station, 1 hour and 10 minutes' drive

FOSHOU LAKE AND SHUIMODANIAN in the "Green Lung"

— Geng Chunxiao

Known as the largest "green lung" in Nanjing, Laoshan National Forest Park is bordered by the Yangtze River in the south and the Chuhe River on the north. It is also the largest of its kind in Jiangsu Province.



TIPS

Foshou Lake Park

Opening hours: 09:00-17:30

Tel: 025-58601545

Transportation: 20 km from Nanjing Railway Station, 35 minutes' drive

Shuimodania

Opening hours: 09:00-17:00

Tel: 025-58656666

Transportation: 28 km from Nanjing Railway Station, 40 minutes' drive

There are 89 peaks, large and small, in Laoshan Mountain, with Pearl Spring, Amber Spring and Tangquan Hot Spring shining and charming inside. Tree leaves are dyed with various colors in autumn. What a poetic picture! With the land as the painting desk and the mountains as the paper and ink, maple leaves and ginkgoes are wielding their brushes in the mountain, creating a beautiful scene in red and yellow.

The natural scene and cultural landscape are well integrated. Famous people in different dynasties of Chinese history, such as Liu Yu (Emperor Wu of Song), Xiao Yan (Emperor Wu of Liang) and his eldest son Prince Zhaoming, Wang Anshi, Su Shi and Qin Guan from Song Dynasty, had paid a visit to Laoshan.

The colorful autumn can be admired in Zhenqi Road of Laoshan. This avenue, which connects two scenic spots, Laoshan National Forest Park and Pearl Spring Scenic Area, includes a 5.3-kilometer-long carriage-way and a 5.5-kilometer-long footway, where visitors can ride a bike, stroll in the forest and climb the hill to enjoy the scenery. A sea of colored-leaf trees on both sides are rustling in the wind, which is extremely spectacular.

Foshou Lake Park is located in the south of the Pearl Springs Resort. The five peninsulas in the lake are integrated with Laoshan, covering an area of nearly 400,000 m². It shapes like a Buddha's hand in a vast expanse of water, which is not only a natural oxygen bar, but also a paradise for camping, picnics

and children. Strolling and sightseeing, people can enjoy the natural scenery and have a good and comfortable time in the wild.

Located at the northern foot of Laoshan, Shuimodanian holds annual roller skating and rock climbing competitions. The 2022 China MTB Championships & China Junior MTB Championships has just been successfully wrapped up here. The colorful bicycle track stretches across the green mountains and clean rivers. Shuimodanian Country Leisure Resort, with its geographical advantage as the site for Nanjing Youth Olympic Games in 2014 and the cultural inheritance of post-youth Olympic era, is a tourism scenic spot that integrates bicycle-themed exhibitions, leisure, and vacation. It is home to bicycle experience hall, the cycling culture museum, amusement park for kids, grass-skiing base, cross-country bicycle experience park, animal park, etc.

The bicycle experience hall in Shuimodanian is the first comprehensive exhibition hall in Jiangsu with the largest scale, complete functions and facilities to demonstrate the bicycle culture. There is a 10,000-meter circular cycling track built in accordance with international cycling standards. The picturesque landscape and green mountains along the track make it a top choice for cycling enthusiasts to show their speed and passion.

The animal park opened this year is a great parent-child paradise for children to learn about nature and animals. Shuimodanian, with approximately 66,000 m² of lawn and more than 40 kinds of cute animals, is a perfect choice for family with children to get close to nature where visitors can enjoy grass sliding and play in the amusement park for kids.

FLOWERS, MUSIC AND FRAGRANCE IN JIANGSU

— Geng Chunxiao

After autumn, the most beautiful colors are revealed one by one as you walk into the mountains of Jiangsu. Gold and yellow are the main tones, coexisting with dark green, ochre, indigo and vermillion etc. in harmony. Everyone in Jiangsu has a set of autumn color cards to collect. Autumn leaves make the most

beautiful coat for Jiangsu and the palettes are about to open up everywhere. The beauty of red and green leaves is beyond description.

Every autumn, trees are already tinged with the golden colors of autumn and hills bask in the setting sun.

Autumn in Jiangsu is also a great time to enjoy flowers, music and fragrance.

The sound of cicadas faded in autumn, replaced by the chirping of autumn insects, like a seasonal reshuffle. In Jiangsu, every breath of autumn is like an event. While the "King of Osmanthus" over 100 years old in the Purple Mountain, is in full blossom with wonderful aromas, the Nanjing Forest Concert is once again staged at Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum Music Stage. Since 2015, the Forest Concert has been held in Nanjing for eight years. Musicians from the St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Phil-

harmonic Orchestra, the Czech Philharmonic and the Rome Philharmonic Orchestra have brought the audience distinctive enjoyment in the moonlit forest.

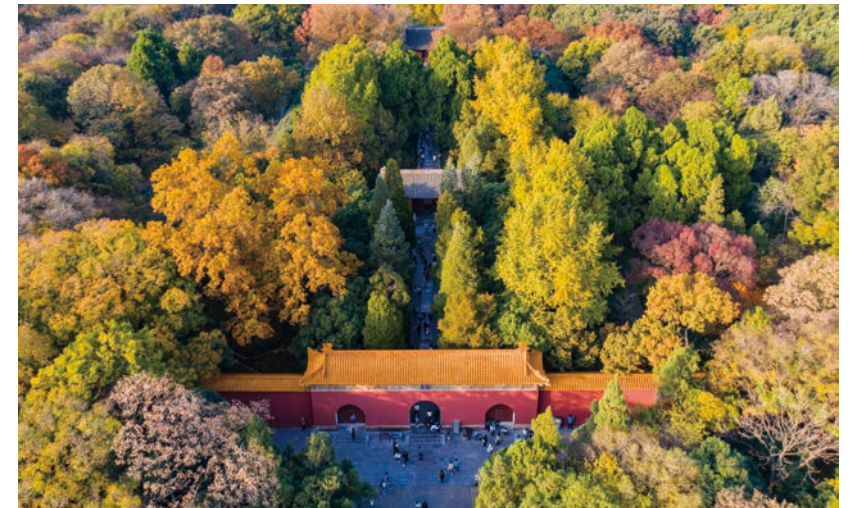
A falling leaf tells the coming of autumn, the season of harvest. The bumper harvest on the land is delightful and the bustle of harvest celebration fascinates people. Harvest is the most beautiful landscape in the land of Jiangsu. It is the fragrance of rice blossoms in the fields, the colorful autumn leaves, the green color fading from the edge of leaves; it is the oil painting of osmanthus, maple leaves, ginkgo, chrysanthemums, reeds, sunflowers and hairawn muhly. In the breeze and moonlight, let's enjoy the colorful autumn of Jiangsu with a pitcher of sweet-scented osmanthus wine.



Mickey Mouse Once Came to Visit Shixiang Road

— Geng Chunxiao

Purple Mountain, also known as Zhongshan Mountain, is located in the northeast of Nanjing. Li Bai, Su Shi, Wang Anshi and Lu You all left poems for Purple Mountain. These anecdotes, calligraphy works, poems give people endless reverie. The lush Purple Mountain is dotted with many monumental buildings, scenic spots and historical sites, among which the Nanjing Ming Xiaoling Mausoleum was listed on the World Cultural Heritage List in 2003.



Today, I would like to introduce to you the Purple Mountain Shixiang Road. It has the reputation of being the most beautiful 600 meters in Nanjing. Recently, it has finally changed into a colorful autumn costume.

Shixiang Road is located in Purple Mountain Ming Xiaoling Mausoleum Scenic Spot. With a length of more than 600 meters, it is the front section of Sacred Way in Ming Xiaoling Mausoleum. Along the way, 6 kinds of carved stone animals, including lions, haetae, camels, elephants, kylin and horses are distributed. With 2 pairs for each animal, there are 12 pairs of 24 pieces in total.

Trees such as Waterelm, Liquidambar formosana Hance, and spium sebiferum are planted on both sides of the road, which are as colorful as overturned palettes. Demarcated by stone elephant, the landscape on the east and west sides of the road is different. On the west side of the stone elephant, towards the direction of the baluster, the crimson Waterelm is "partnered" with the dark green sabina chinensis. On the east side of the stone statue, the purplish red or orange red spium sebiferum and Liquidambar formosana Hance appear more delicate and beautiful against the golden ginkgo. From the aerial pictures, we can also see that the red, green, yellow, orange, purple and pink colors on the Shixiang Road in autumn are arranged interchangeably, like a colorful

silk scarf.

In addition to the Shixiang Road, the colorful taxodium distichum by the Purple Mountain Yanque Lake, there are also valleys and dense forests behind the Music Stage, and autumn colors in the reflection in Zixia Lake and the "rainbow carpet" beside the pavilion. As time goes by, the more beautiful autumn colors of Purple Mountain will be demonstrated.

In 1991, Disney issued a set of stamps on world scenic spots in Bhutan, including one showing elements of Nanjing, with Porcelain Tower of Nanjing and Ming Xiaoling Mausoleum Shixiang Road in the background. In the picture, Mickey Mouse is standing next to the huge stone elephant, while Minnie is watching happily. This stamp conveys a message that Shixiang Road is not only loved by Nanjing citizens, but also regarded as a symbol of Nanjing internationally.

TIPS

Ming Xiaoling Mausoleum

Opening hours: 06:30-18:30

Tel: 025-84433582

Transportation: 7 km from Nanjing Railway Station, 15 minutes' drive

Aquatic Forest

— Geng Chunxiao

By the Daquan Lake of Luhe District in Nanjing lies a tranquil fairyland - Zhima Ridge. In the colorful autumn, the most popular scenery for photographers is the hauntingly beautiful cedar forest that dressed in different shade of red in Zhima Ridge, as if a picture scroll painted with tinged mountains and forests is slowly unfolding.

Nearly 50,000 cedar trees stand in the lake. The sun shines through the spaces between leaves, then sprinkles on the trunks of trees, leaving the dappled light. On the lake and under trees, the reflections of cedar trees are interlaced. A breeze blowing, the water ripples on and on until laps at the roots.

Oaks, euphrates poplars, sand pines, chestnut trees, amur maackia appear to turn on various colors, just like a palette that overturned by a painter. The autumn scenery of Zhima Ridge is colorful and dizzying, for it consists of the lake, trees and mountains, stretching out as far as you can see. Perhaps unconsciously, you will be lost in the fantastic fairyland.

Located in Xinghua City of Taizhou, Lizhong Aquatic For-

est Park is the largest artificial wetland ecological forest in Jiangsu Province, as well as a natural oxygen bar for urbanites to return to nature for leisure. This artificial ecological forest covers an area of 1 million m². Metasequoia and cedar trees are towering, with birds gathering and chirping in the treetops, fishes jumping in the ditch, making it a vibrant forest. The scenic area is crisscrossed by rivers, and more than 100,000 tall and leafy metasequoia trees are planted in the forest. It is a paradise for wildlife, where owls, wild ducks, egrets, black cuckoos and grass-parrots nest here to rest. There are usually more than 30,000 birds, and more than 60,000 at most.

The whole forest is dominated by cedar trees. Beautiful egrets flit through trees from time to time, which makes

the whole forest dynamic and static, offering peace of mind for tourists. In the late autumn and early winter, green leaves gradually wither and a vast aquatic redwood forest becomes apparent. Red leaves and green water are in contrast to and complement each other, making it an incredibly picturesque scenery.

In autumn, you can try whitewater rafting in Lizhong Aquatic Forest Park to get a unique experience. Traveling on a raft in the scenic area, you can appreciate the tall and upright metasequoia trees, take a closer look at the elf-like water birds and enjoy the sight of a flock of wild egrets shuttling through the forest, as well as farmed peacocks wandering by the lake. Come here, you'll find everywhere is full of surprises.

TIPS

Lizhong Aquatic Forest Park

Opening hours: 08:00-17:00

Tel: 0523-83861777

Transportation: 70km from Taizhou Railway Station, 1 hour and 20 minutes' drive

Zhima Ridge Forest Park

Transportation: 80 km from Nanjing Railway Station, 1 hour and 30 minutes' drive



BUMPER HARVEST

the Most Beautiful Painting of the Land

— Summer Liang

It is autumn when the sky is high and crisp, woods upon woods are dressed in crimson, reeds are swaying, fruits are fragrant, and the land embraces bumper harvest. In autumn, the most beautiful "abundant" scenery appears in Jiangsu, beautiful countryside, mountains and rivers, with fields of ripening rice waiting for harvest, the picture scroll of autumn harvest gradually unfolding. Standing in the fields to watch the rice waves rolling and walking through the trails to listen to the wind singing, a long-awaited journey in autumn begins at this moment.

On Autumn Equinox, we are celebrating the 5th Chinese Farmers' Harvest Festival. The Chinese Farmers' Harvest Festival is the first festival specially set up for farmers at the national level. In Octo-

ber, we will also celebrate World Food Day.

This year, the launching ceremony of Jiangsu Rural Tourism Festival was held in Xiangyu Village, Jintan District, Changzhou City, one of the national key rural tourism villages with a series of activities with different characteristics. Fairy as its name, the village on the eastern part of Maoshan Scenic Area, Jintan in Changzhou City, is well-known for country side lifestyle, farming, ecological food, leisure and health preservation. It has been awarded as one of the Ten Most Beautiful Villages in China. It is also listed in the first batch of National Key Rural Tourism Villages.

It's harvest time again. When the rice waves, the coffee produced

by the Rice-field Cafe in Xiangyu Village carries the special aroma of rice. A variety of interesting activities such as the rice-field maze, the straw castle, ancient fishing techniques preserved in villages and so on have made countryside life more entertained.

Golden paddy ears, yellow soybeans, red chilis, purple blueberries... Every color is vivid, and every product is vibrant here. Like elves in costumes, they are going to a carnival of colors and saluting the harvest with the most beautiful colors.

If you want to visit the golden rice fields and attractive orchards full of fruits, or to feel the leisurely life of "picking the chrysanthemums under the eastern fence", you might as well follow the list of



the first batch of National Key Rural Tourism Villages.

Apart from Xiangyu Village in Jintan, Changzhou City, it is also highly recommended to visit Lijiayuan Village, Liyang, Changzhou City; Fuxi Village, Yixing and Shanlian Village, Xishan, Wuxi City; Huanglongxian Tea Culture Village, Jiangning and Bulao Village, Pukou, Nanjing City; Yonglian Village, Zhangjiagang and Jiangxiang Village, Changshu, Suzhou City; Guishan Village, Hongze, Huai'an City; Hengbei Village, Dafeng, Yancheng City; Yisheng Village, Haimen, Nantong City; Qixiang Village, Taixing, Taizhou City; Mazhuang Village, Jiawang, Xuzhou City and other beautiful villages in Jiangsu.

The Fragrance of Paddy and Fruits

— Clytie Shen

There is a Chinese saying that "planting in spring, growing in summer, harvesting in autumn and storing in winter". In Jiangsu Province, when autumn comes, you can walk through the paths crossing the fields to appreciate the sight that farmers separate grain from chaff. You can also enjoy the aroma of paddy and fruits while feeling the delight after harvest. In addition, there are also lots of fantastic idyllic landscapes in this province you can't miss, where you'll realize the abundance and beauty of autumn.

To provide a poetic idyllic scenery and country life experience, Suqian Shennong Shidai Cultural Tourism Area has built eight pavilions themed on vegetables, grain, fiber, flowers and fruit trees by taking 5,000 years of Chinese agricultural civilization as the design background. In the vegetable pavilion, there is a

colorful vegetable garden, a solanaceous vegetables garden and a corridor of strange-shaped melons. You can also enjoy some interactive experience such as grinding, plowing, brewing and so on in the grain pavilion.

When fresh fruits hang on branches, the harvest season has arrived. In Sanhe Magtoe Town, Jintu County of Huai'an City, the sweet and fresh kiwi fruits and peaches are ready to be picked. The jujube trees in Wucheng Town's winter-jujube gardens in Huaiyin District of Huai'an City are growing surprisingly well. The sweet jujubes have already hung over the branches, honeying up the whole autumn.

Big data from Fliggy, an online travel platform revealed that during the National Day holiday, countryside homestays in Jiangsu's



beautiful villages gained popularity driven by short-distance trips. Moreover, camping was welcomed by consumers so that the number of camping orders grew 1.3 times compared with the period before the holiday. Personalized entertainment combining camping and picking, painting or insect exploration and so on fell into favor in Jiangsu.

In the golden autumn every year, people in Nanjing City will go to a party for the fun of agriculture, the China Nanjing Agricultural Carnival. This year, it was held for the 18th time in Hushu Modern Agro-industrial Park (the paddy land) in Jiangning District of this City. During the Carnival, you can take part in many popular farming activities, such as catching fish in paddy fields, digging up wild greens and sweet potatoes, airing Tofu skin, sieving millet, plucking radishes, digging lily bulbs, picking water chestnuts, grinding soy milk and making rice cakes. A

specially-dug fishing pond and a fruit picking garden are also set up for visitors. Visiting here, you'll be shocked by and deluged with plenty of new varieties of crops such as the giant pumpkin weighing more than 150 kg, sweet potatoes growing on high-altitude wines, Striped Toga trees laden with fruit, and over 10 kinds of global rices such as sea-rice, colored rice and "giant" rice etc.

During the National Day holiday this year, I accompanied friends to experience the enjoyment and wilderness of nature at Dubi Amusement Park in Jiangning District, Nanjing. It is about a 15-minute drive away from Nanjing Lukou International Airport. At the park, families with children can camp, pick grapes at Catherine Orchard and get close to animals. In addition, there also lies a vast expansion of golden ears of rice near the park, forming an amazing rice field art and constituting a colorful picture of harvest.



Ginkgo:

Floral Emblem of Five Cities in Jiangsu

—Frank Hossack and Quinn

Ginkgo trees are old. Really Old. Perhaps even older than the city of Xuzhou in northwest Jiangsu. Xuzhou is a national historical and cultural city. That it is the oldest city in the province, dating back over 5,000 years as a civilization and over 2,600 years as a city, makes it a fitting home therefore for forests of ginkgo.

Now is also the time of year to make a trip to Xuzhou, or specifically to Pizhou, in the east of Xuzhou, situated at the "tail" of the horse-shaped Luoma Lake. The reward for such is a ginkgo forest park covering an area of more than 200 square kilometers.

The so called "Pizhou Ginkgo Time Tunnel" shall surely be the destination for many travelers coming to Xuzhou when late autumn approaches each year.

Along this 3-kilometer-long village road, the ginkgo tree beaches weave a golden sky while the many layers of fallen leaves make for a golden carpet on which to walk.

Ginkgo trees are also synonymous with autumn in Xuzhou city itself. Students in Quanshan Campus of Jiangsu Normal University are blessed with their own mini ginkgo forest, while they also stand

guard at the gate of the south campus of Xuzhou University of Technology.

Over in Tongshan New Area, ginkgo trees are planted all around Haihe Road, Songshan Road and Changjiang Road among many others. Their long history makes for an ideal contrast with the cutting-edge technologies being developed nearby.

The history of ginkgo cultivation in Pizhou can be traced back to before the Han Dynasty. In Pizhou, there are in fact 12 ginkgo trees which are over 1,000 years old and 69 around to have celebrated their 500th birthday. The oldest ginkgo tree exists in Baimasi Village, Sihui Town, Pizhou, and has an age of nearly 1,500 years.

With this increasing knowledge of the wonders of the ginkgo putting its golden splendor in late autumn top of many people's bucket lists, do not forget the local saying, "If you want to appreciate ginkgo in Jiangsu, you have to go to Xuzhou; if you want to appreciate ginkgo in Xuzhou, you can't miss Pizhou."

Visitors who fancy ginkgoes also frequent Xihui Park in Wuxi. Located in the ancient town of Huishan, Liangxi District, Wuxi, its name stems from Xishan Mountain and Huishan Mountain in Wuxi. It is said

that the hundreds-year-old ginkgo tree was planted by the monk Xinghai during the early Hongwu Reign of the Ming Dynasty. Every late autumn, the leaves of this ancient ginkgo tree turn from green to yellow, with golden branches and leaves, some leaves falling on the ground. In addition, the pavilions, terraces, and towers in Liyuan Garden and the ginkgo grove in Chunshen Gully attract countless tourists, especially photographers every autumn. It is safe to state that the ginkgo avenue on Xigan Road is also one of the best-known sceneries in Wuxi.

Among all the city trees in Jiangsu, the ginkgo has the highest rate of appearance. A total of five cities, Xuzhou, Taizhou, Yangzhou, Lianyungang, and Yancheng have chosen ginkgo as their emblems. Ancient Ginkgo Forest Park in Taixing, Taizhou, Shi Kefa Memorial Hall in Yangzhou, Mount Huaguoshan in Lianyungang and the Yellow Sea National Forest Park in Yancheng are all wonderful places for the Jiangsu people to appreciate ginkgo trees.



Osmanthus Flower

Perfume of Autumn in Jiangsu

— Geng Chunxiao

With little golden yellow flowers blooming all over the branches, the autumn in Suzhou is osmanthus flavored. The whole city is immersed in the rich and fresh sweet fragrance. Osmanthus is the city flower of Suzhou, and its high status and wide dispersion are self-evident. Osmanthus flowers have a history of thousands of years of cultivation in Suzhou, and there are countless places in Suzhou to admire the osmanthus flowers.

Located at the southeastern corner of the ancient Suzhou City, Osmanthus Park is surrounded by the ancient canal to the east and the lush city walls of Suzhou and the green waters of the Grand Canal to the south. There are more than 260 species, many of which are rare and precious, especially the osmanthus species. The garden has more than 3,000 plants of more than 40 varieties of osmanthus, including osmanthus fragrans 'Jiulonggui', 'Zhushagui', Scarlet Sage, 'Xionghuanggui', 'Tianxiang Taige', 'Rixianggui', 'Jinju' and 'Wanyingui'. Thus it is the unique sweet-scented osmanthus specialized garden in Suzhou. The park also has a unique "Osmanthus Tea Garden", perennial supply of osmanthus tea, snacks and drinks, such as osmanthus sugar, osmanthus wine, sweet-scented osmanthus tea and so on.

Suzhou Lingering Garden is one with the most varieties of osmanthus among the classical gardens of Suzhou. There are seven varieties of osmanthus fragrans, namely, 'Jingui', 'Yingui', 'Dangui', 'Zigui', 'Sijigui', 'Zhushagui' and 'Yuanyanggui'. In the garden, the Osmanthus Fragrance Pavilion was built to appreciate the fragrance of osmanthus. Osmanthus is also known as "Osmanthus fragrans (Thunb.) Lour.". This Pavilion got its name from the sweet-scented osmanthus flowers. The four-side open-style Osmanthus Fragrance Pavilion is surrounded by the osmanthus flowers. Every autumn, the fragrance of the flowers can be felt everywhere.

The corridor on the west side of the East Garden in the Couple's Retreat Garden is accompanied by osmanthus flowers, so it is named after Gui. Located at the beginning of the corridor, Fragrance Storage Room is located in front of the courtyard, and the courtyard is planted with osmanthus flowers. Thus every Mid-Autumn Festival, the room is field with fragrance, vividly interpreting



the meaning of the word "Fragrance Storage Room".

In Ban Yuan, there is an old sweet-scented osmanthus tree over 150 years old, which is full of golden yellow osmanthus flowers every autumn. The refreshing aroma, with the autumn wind sweeping over the rockery pond, over the white wall and black tiles, dyed the whole street.

Yaoshang village, northwest of Guangfu Town, Suzhou, is the village with the highest concentration of osmanthus flowers in Suzhou. Besides, this village has an area of more than 1.33 km² of osmanthus flowers, which makes it a famous scenic spot to admire osmanthus flowers in Suzhou. When the osmanthus flowers are blooming, the whole town is in the sea of sweet-scented osmanthus.

Osmanthus also appears in osmanthus wine, sweet osmanthus taro and osmanthus cake on the streets of Suzhou. A poetic autumn,

with the fragrance of sweet-scented osmanthus, sneaked into the hearts of every diner.

Suqian also takes sweet-scented osmanthus as the city flower, and osmanthus flowers can be found everywhere in the city. The refreshing fragrance of osmanthus will reach your heart if you walk under the sweet-scented osmanthus trees. Stepping into Santaishan National Forest Park, you can smell the fragrance of osmanthus from far away in the area of Mirror Lake and Xiangsi Lake. Like millet grains, sweet-scented osmanthus blooms all over the branches and falls with the wind, as if it is raining osmanthus flowers.

The first scent of osmanthus in Nanjing is also particularly exciting. The centenarian "King of Osmanthus" in Linggu Temple is ready to bloom, the "Osmanthus fragrans 'Dahua Jingui'" around Huanzhou Isle of Xuanwu Lake is sweet-scented, the fragrance of osmanthus flowers in Gulin Park is lingering, and fragrance of thousands of osmanthus flowers flows with the spring in Pearl Spring Scenic Area... The fragrance surrounds tourists and makes every tourist understand that autumn in Jiangsu is osmanthus flavored.

TIPS

Osmanthus Park
Opening hours: 09:00-18:00
Tel: 0512-65192177
Transportation: 10 km from Suzhou Railway Station, 17 minutes' drive

Santaishan National Forest Park
Opening hours: 09:00-17:00
Tel: 0527-84397888
Transportation: 25 km from Suqian Railway Station, 36 minutes' drive



Double Ninth Festival, Time for Chrysanthemums

— Fang Fei and Geng Chunxiao

Chrysanthemum, a popular fall flower, is often regarded as the symbol of autumn. Ancient Chinese people even called the ninth lunar month "Juyue (a month of chrysanthemums)". When it gets colder and colder in autumn, the chrysanthemums with strong vitality can fight with the cold wind and frost. The beauty of chrysanthemums refers to their strength of character. Therefore, in China, chrysanthemums are renowned as one of the "Four Gentlemen of Flowers (four symbols of noble characters)".

At the Double Ninth Festival, a traditional festival in autumn, some customs such as appreciating chrysanthemums and drinking chrysanthemum wine are necessary. The custom of chrysanthemum appreciation at the Double Ninth Festival has been kept up in China for a long

time, hence this day is also called the "Chrysanthemum Festival". The Double Ninth Festival comes just after the First Frost of 24 solar terms, naturally, climbing mountains and appreciating chrysanthemums have become tasteful events of this festival.

A chrysanthemum flowers, enchanting half a city. The annual "city flower", chrysanthemums exhibition, is a ceremony for Nantong people to head into autumn. An exhibition of colorful chrysanthemums imbues this season with the sense of ritual. Nantong City has a long history of chrysanthemums cultivation, and enjoys a national reputation for landscaping art. It has been named as the base of Chinese traditional chrysanthemums, and has preserved more than 1,600 fine chrysanthemum varieties at home and abroad. In 1982, chrysanthemum was officially confirmed as the city flower of Nantong, and the first Nantong Chrysan-

themum Exhibition was held that year with success. Nantong Chrysanthemum Exhibition has been successfully held for more than 30 years, which has become a significant festival and feast for Nantong citizens to meet the arrival of autumn. Among these displayed varieties, the Tangzha chrysanthemum of Nantong is famous at home and abroad; for this reason, Tangzha Park has become one of the two bases for chrysanthemum breeding and cultivation in China.

Every autumn, the chrysanthemum carpet is unveiled at the chrysanthemum base of Nanjing Agricultural University in Hushu, Jiangning District. In addition to the common red, yellow, white, pink and purple chrysanthemums, there are also rare green ones. In terms of flower shape, besides the common traditional varieties of chrysanthemums, there are more new varieties of chrysanthemums such as garden chrysanthemum, honeycomb

chrysanthemum, ping pong chrysanthemum, multi-headed chrysanthemum and ground-cover chrysanthemum in the base. There are more than 5,000 chrysanthemum resources and 3,000 chrysanthemum varieties in the base, including more than 400 new varieties of different shapes and colors independently cultivated by Nanjing Agricultural University. The base is the center of chrysanthemum germplasm resources preservation in China and the world's largest chrysanthemum gene bank.

Chrysanthemums that can stand the chill of autumn have a long history of cultivation at Xuanwu Lake of Nanjing. Before the Ming Dynasty, chrysanthemums in Nanjing were mostly grown in gardens near this lake. Because of the fertile land and the careful cultivation of florists, many colorful chrysanthemums will bloom and a crowd of visitors will flock in this place at the time of Autumn

Equinox. For years, annual chrysanthemum exhibitions have been held regularly at the park.

Chrysanthemums are not only for horticulture and medicine, but represent peace and friendship. The Chinese chrysanthemum was brought to England in 1676 by a Dutchman named Hartstochtelijke Liefde. It was later widely planted in Europe and America. In the 19th century, the British botanist Robert Fortune crossbred fine chrysanthemum varieties from China and Japan, then spread the hybrid widely in Britain. In the UK, a wide range of chrysanthemum exhibitions are held every year in major cities. Chrysanthemum, the flower that not only reflects the connotation of Chinese folk culture, but also embodies the national integrity of perseverance and the cultural spirit of nobility and simplicity, is favored by people all over the world.



Jiangsu: Home to Two of the Top Four Major Maple Appreciation Resorts

— Jimmy from Canada
University of California, Los Angeles student

Canada, my motherland, is called "the land of maple". The red of maple leaves is undoubtedly the brightest color of autumn in Jiangsu Province.

As one of the four major maple appreciation resorts in China, Qixia Mountain of Nanjing has held the Red Maple Art Festival for more than 20 consecutive years. Here, you can appreciate the red maple leaves that spread all over the mountain, living up to the reputation of "visiting Niushou Mountain in spring and Qixia Mountain in autumn".

Qixia Mountain will usher in the best time for "viewing red" in November. Red-leaved tree species such as Liquidambar formosana Hance, Acer Palmatum, Triadica sebifera (Linnaeus) Small and Acer buergerianum are turning red one after another. Winding through the red-leaved forest, one can see the maple leaves of various colors cascading progressively. Qixia Mountain Resort in Nanjing continues to carry out a series of cultural and tourism activities such as night concerts, outdoor orienteering competitions as well as research and study for parents and children, the handcraft festival and hanfu parade.

Overlooking from the top tower on Niushou Mountain, you can see that the red maples are as brilliant as rosy clouds. There are also a series of the Mid-Autumn Festival traditional activities such as watching lanterns, guessing riddles, visiting the garden and so on. In the forest dyed with autumn colors, the state of mind is suddenly enlightened.

Situated on the bank of the Taihu Lake in southwestern Suzhou, Tianping Mountain that is famous for its "red maple leaves, grotesque stone and crystal spring", is also a beautiful

landscape in autumn. After fighting with cold frost, the color of the maple leaves of Tianping Mountain gradually turns from green to yellow, orange, red and purple, or to light crimson, gold, orange, pinkish-orange and other bright colors successively, that is why it's called "Colorful Maple Leaves".

I'd also like to recommend Jichang Garden in Xihui Park of Huishan Ancient Town, Wuxi. It is rather quaint to view the red maples through the wooden lattice windows and reflections on the water.

Feast in Autumn with Fragrance of Osmanthus

— Geng Chunxiao

Autumn is the time to eat delicious crabs. Drinking new wine, appreciating yellow chrysanthemums, and enjoying the osmanthus flowers, foodies embrace their favorite season featuring harvest and delicacies. Flowers, moon, wine, crabs, delicious food and sweet flavors bring incomparable happiness to Jiangsu people who are ready for feasts.

In autumn, streets in Jiangsu would be filled with light fragrances of sweet-scented osmanthus flowers and chestnuts roasted in sugar. Taking sweet-scented osmanthus sugar desserts and a juicy baked sweet potato in two hands, and holding a bag of freshly-cooked meat mooncakes in arms are far from enough for people in Jiangsu. Fat crabs, luscious fruits, and nutritious meals are waiting at home, which is the top-splendid enjoyment.

Sweet-scented osmanthus flowers play an indispensable role in the autumn in Jiangsu. People in Jiangsu love to bake dessert, boil soup, make wine, or cook meals with sweet-scented osmanthus flowers, which is graceful.

Cooking sweet-scented osmanthus flowers and lotus roots together would create new dishes, such as sweet lotus root with osmanthus flowers, as well as osmanthus sugar cake with lotus powder. Adding gorgon fruit, water chestnut, and chufa would result in a bowl of soft and sugar soup. They are all known as one of "shuibaxian", or "eight fairies in water". You may also taste the delicious osmanthus and chestnut soup. Moreover, sweet-scented osmanthus flower and red bean sweet dumplings, sweet-scented osmanthus flower chestnut puddings, sweet-scented osmanthus flower rice wine, sweet-scented osmanthus flower honey, and other delicacies should never be missed. Sweet-scented osmanthus flowers help people in Jiangsu to enjoy the feast in autumn in a more elegant way.



SHUIBAXIAN: Present from Jiangnan

—Samantha, Kesley Tang and Wang Wenxiu

In early autumn, Jiangsu people's beloved "shuibaxian" or "eight water fairies in water", are available one after another. They are eight kinds of vegetables produced in the water, namely wild rice shoot, lotus root, water celery, gorgon fruit, Sagittaria sagittifolia, chufa, Braseniaschreberi and water chestnut. Most of these water crops are light in flavor, so a simple stir-fry or a cold dish will bring out their original taste. They can also be cooked with other ingredients to make the taste richer. Tasting these watery, fresh and nourishing vegetables in early autumn, is really a blessing.



people picking water chestnuts in the lotus pond

LOTUS ROOT

Every part of the lotus is valuable. In summer, one can enjoy lotus flowers and eat lotus seeds. When autumn begins, the crisp and tasty lotus roots come on the market, and then fresh lotus roots become a common dish of Jiangsu people. Lotus roots of Baoying County of Yangzhou, shallow water lotus roots of Xiangshui County of Yancheng, lotus roots of Yanghua Town of Suqian, lotus roots of Shanheyuan in Suqian, and lotus seeds of Longji Town of Suqian are all national agricultural products with geographical indication.



Lotus roots can be eaten raw or cooked. Jiangsu people like to mix lotus roots, osmanthus flowers and glutinous rice to make sweet osmanthus glutinous rice lotus roots. Firstly, sift and pickle the freshly picked osmanthus flowers with sugar. Next, stuff the soaked glutinous rice into the holes of the lotus root and steam it in a steamer. Finally, drizzle the lotus root with honey osmanthus. Then we can get a plate of delicious sweet-scented osmanthus glutinous rice lotus roots.

In addition, there are many ways to cook lotus root, such as sliced lotus root in vinegar, lotus root soup with pork ribs, cold shredded lotus root, lotus root sandwich, lotus root powder and lotus root powder ball etc. Eating raw lotus roots can clear the heat and promote salivation, while eating cooked lotus roots can strengthen the spleen and stomach, thus being a superior tonic in autumn.

GORGON FRUIT

In early autumn, gorgon fruit, known as "ginseng in water", is available one after another. It is not only a seasonal delicacy that people in Jiangnan (the south of the Yangtze River) can't forget, but also a must-try specialty for tourists visiting Jiangnan. Gorgon fruit is also called chicken-head rice, because it looks like a chicken's head before peeling it off. After peeling off the shell, its white interior looks like a jade pearl. Unlike other places in Jiangsu, gorgon fruit in Suzhou is soft and elastic with a little fragrance.



The most authentic way to eat gorgon fruit is gorgon fruit with osmanthus syrup. Gorgon fruit itself is not tasty. It is the mouthfeel that counts. A bowl of moist and glutinous osmanthus gorgon fruit with osmanthus syrup is the symbol of autumn for people living in Jiangnan.

WATER CHESTNUT

Water chestnut of Shaobo Town in Yangzhou is one of the three most famous water chestnut varieties in Jiangsu and Zhejiang, along with those grown in Taihu Lake and Jiading City. Shaobo water chestnut has four horns, and the left and right horns are shaped like sheep's horns, so it is also called "green sheep horn". Shaobo water chestnut is the only one named after a place among the four major water chestnut systems in China. It is produced in the area of Shaobo Town in Jiangdu, Yangzhou,



and is known as the three treasures of the Grand Canal, together with Baoying lotus root and Gaoyou double-yolk egg.

For people in Suzhou, the first thing that comes to mind when mentioning water chestnuts is the red ones called "Suzhou Red". Taihu Lake provides an excellent environment for the cultivation of red chestnuts. The freshly marketed red water chestnuts are tender and sweet, with sufficient water, and suitable to eat raw. When you bite into it, you will feel its crispness and sweetness, and have a cool taste in your mouth after eating.

Water chestnut of Hongze District, Huai'an, Jiangsu Province, is a specialty. They are available from White Dew, known as "Bailu" in Chinese, signifying the real beginning of cool autumn to the end of autumn. When the red water chestnuts are out of season, there are green ones followed by water chestnuts falling from the root. The fallen and old chestnuts, can be warmed up and eaten, less tender than the fresh chestnuts, but a little sweeter.

SAGITTARIA SAGITTIFOLIA

Sagittaria sagittifolia is a perennial herb with a taste mixing sweetness and bitterness. Sagittaria sagittifolia of Baoying County in Yangzhou is a national agricultural product with geographical indication. Its glutinous flesh has a distinctive flavor when combined with meat. People in the south of the Yangtze River usually make a variety of delicious dishes such as fried Sagittaria sagittifolia slices with garlic and roasted pork. In Suzhou, there is another way to eat them - boiled Sagittaria sagittifolia slices in oil, golden and crispy, which is a favorite snack of Suzhou people.



BRASENIA SCHREBERI

Brasenia schreberi of the Taihu Lake, a specialty of Suzhou, is a national geographical indication product. Its young leaves and stems contain a gelatinous mucus, which gives it a fine, smooth, cool and delicious taste and a unique fragrance. The taste is slight with a little bitterness in its smoothness and crispness. Some people described it as the taste of tastelessness. The wonder lies in the peculiar sensation felt on the tongue. The best way to eat it is to elaborately make a bowl of Brasenia schreberi soup.



WILD RICE SHOOT

The wild rice shoot, also called Zizania aquatica, is a necessity for people in the south of the Yangtze River all year round. It is suitable to provide proper nourishment for people in autumn. In autumn, a dry season, people need to complement rather moisture. The wild rice shoot helps to eliminate edema. After the autumn equinox, it is the most desirable. It's white and tender, with a mild scent of grass and a light, sweet, moist watery smell. If you lose your appetite, just fry a plate of shredded wild rice roots with meat or beans for the meal. When the weather turns colder, a dish of wild rice roots presents another flavor.



CHUFA

After Cold Dew, known as "Hanlu" in Chinese signifying the official end of autumn, you can enjoy early chufa in Jiangnan. Autumn and winter are dry, and it is important to replenish water. That's where chufa, crisp and juicy comes into being. It gets the name "underground snow pear" for the effects of engendering liquid and moistening the lungs. It looks like the human navel. It can be eaten raw or cooked. Raw chufa is sweet and crunchy, like fruit. When cooked, it is soft, rather sweet and delectable.

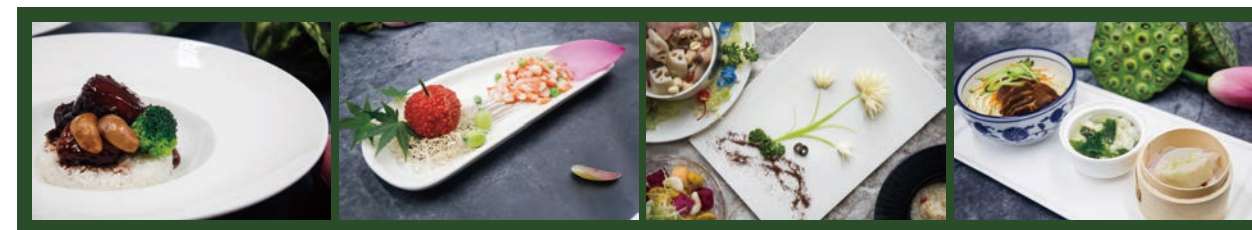


WATER CELERY

Water celery is not available until late autumn. Cold water celery in sauce is emerald-colored with a unique fragrance. Water celery of Liyang in Changzhou has excellent quality and its stems and leaves are edible. It can be stir-fried or mixed with vegetarian. Among the receipts, water celery with dried bean curd is a popular seasonal dish in autumn. Liyang water celery has abundant water and crude fiber, tastes crisp and slightly sweet, and has certain medicinal properties. Jointless water celery from Zhulin Town, Jintan District, Changzhou is also famous for its fragrance, crispness and refreshing taste.



Shuibaxian Dish



Taking a Bite of Autumn

—Samantha, Hu Xiao and Gao Rong

Autumn is the most generous season in nature. Starting from the custom of eating melons and "eating autumn", the sweet and moist taste in autumn is the sweetest gift from the earth.



PEAR

Eating pears in autumn has many benefits, such as quenching thirst, and moisturizing the lungs. Crisp pear of Dashahe Town, Xuzhou is very famous, their pulp is as white as jade, crunching and refreshing, and as sweet as honey.

White crisp pear of Siyang County, Suqian City, Zaosu pear of Linmiaopu Village in Suyu District and Garden crisp pear of Sucheng District are also recommended. These pears have thin peel and are tasted juicy, so do the pear juice and pear syrup.

The Zaosu pear production base in Hengbei Village, Dazhong Town, Dafeng City, Yancheng City is one of the largest of its kind in China. Zaosu pear in Hengbei Village is large and crispy. Its pulp is white and delicate without knot and residue.

Snow pear of Taixing, Taizhou is one of the eight geographical iconic products in Taixing City. The peel is green, the pulp is snow-white, crisp, juicy and sweet.



KIWI FRUIT

Xuxiang kiwi fruit is a variety selected and cultivated from the delicious kiwifruit seedlings introduced from Beijing Botanical Garden in Xuzhou Orchard in 1975. It has large size, rich vitamin content and delicious sour and sweet taste. Yangshi kiwi fruit in Huaisi Town, Hanjiang District, Yangzhou City is also highly recommended, which is not only nutritious, but also popular among people of different ages because of its sweet taste, no sour taste, no astringency and so on.



CITRUS

After Frosts Descent, Suzhou citrus reticulata matured. Red oranges, like lamps, are the best embellishment in the mountains. The storage after picking can last for a long time, and it is famous for its sweet and juicy taste, few collaterals and bright colors. It is an indispensable fruit for people living in Wu area to press the age and give New Year presents.



JUJUBE

Jujube of Sihong County, Suqian City is also known as "overlord jujube". This name has two meanings, one is that it is big and sweet, and the other is that Xiang Yu, the overlord of the Western Chu, loved this jujube. Suqian Sihong jujube is not only one of the best jujube varieties, but also can be processed into drunk jujube, honey jujube, sandwich jujube, etc.



APPLE

Apple of Dashahe Town, Xuzhou City is an endemic apple variety in Jiangsu Province. It has the advantages of refreshing and juicy, sweet and crisp taste, bright color and delicate flesh.



PERSIMMON

The shape of Nantong Qi'an Dafang persimmon is standard. The thin peel is orange-yellow and easy to peel off. The flesh is delicate, juicy, sweet and mellow.



POMEGRANATE

Pomegranate of Dadongshan Mountain, Jiawang District, Xuzhou is an agro-product with national geographical indications, which can be called crystal grain and top-quality pulp. The irrigation of Dadongshan spring makes the pomegranate here delicious, juicy, sour and sweet.



FIGS

The Fig Festival is held every year in Jiangxinzhou, Zhenjiang, where figs are soft, glutinous and sweet. Fresh fig fruit, preserves, fruit tea and dried fig products in Jurong City of Zhenjiang and Chaoyang Lake in Yangzhong City are also popular among consumers.



HAWTHORN

Hawthorn is the best food to stimulate appetite and digestion. Yuntai Mountain in Lianyungang is one of the major production bases of high-quality hawthorn in China, where hawthorn fruit is completely filled and nutritious, and it is also a high-quality production area for hawthorn wine. Huaguo hawthorn wine is a specialty of Xinpu District, Lianyungang. It is sweet and fruity with no astringent taste. The fragrance is still lingering in the mouth after tasting.

YANGCHENG LAKE HAIRY CRABS CATCHING FESTIVAL

— *Geng Chunxiao*

Autumn winds tickle the claws of crabs as well as the hearts of crab lovers.

The golden autumn provides the best crabs with rich crab roe and delicate crab meat. People in Jiangsu not only love crabs but also stand out in crab cooking and farming. On this land of abundance, numerous lakes yield high output of crabs. And crabs in the 13 cities in Jiangsu have distinctive features and flavors.

Firstly, the crown of crabs goes to Yangcheng Lake hairy crabs featuring green shell, white belly, yellow hair, and golden claws.

Yangcheng Lake hairy crab, the scientific name of which is *Eriocheir sinensis*, is the indigenous species in China with the highest output and widest habitats. The popularity of hairy crabs is closely related with local natural environment and hydrographical conditions. As freshwater crabs, Yangcheng Lake hairy crabs are born in salt water and swim back to freshwater when in their childhood. They prefer large lakes with lush water grass and sufficient food which are not too deep as crabs need enough sunshine. Yangcheng Lake is a large and shallow water grass lake lying near the mouth of the Yangtze River, which makes it the most perfect habitat for hairy crabs.

The 2022 Suzhou Yangcheng Lake Hairy Crabs Catching Festival kicked off in Kunshan on autumnal equinox. Hundreds of thousands of fishing boats set sail across the lake and came back with baskets of live crabs. The total production of Yangcheng Lake hairy crabs this year is expected to be 9,400 tons, according to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Bureau of Suzhou Municipal People's Government.

How does the Yangcheng Lake hairy crab taste this year? Generally speaking, it is recommended to eat female crabs in September, male crabs in October, and the fattest until November. The freshly caught Yangcheng Lake female crabs are quick-sand yellow and the meat is fresh and sweet, which taste completely different from the swimming crabs and king crabs.

How will the plump crabs filled with the expectation of gourmets be sent to every place as soon as possible? Crabs from Jiangsu made the debut online. Gourmets all over the country can feast on crabs through e-commerce platforms such as Tmall, JD.com and Pinduoduo and livestreaming sales.

According to Song Xiaolu, head of aquatic industry on Tmall, more than 80% of the members of the Yangcheng Lake Hairy Crab Industry Association have opened online flagship stores. Data revealed that in addition to Yangcheng Lake hairy crabs, crabs from Gucheng Lake, Hongze Lake, Gaoyou Lake, Changdang Lake and Luoma Lake are also favored by consumers, gradually gaining brand influence. In 2020, the overall sales of Gucheng Lake hairy crabs on the e-commerce platform rose nearly 80% year-on-year, and that of Hongze Lake hairy crabs rose 118%. Thanks to modern logistics, "one-day delivery" of Yangcheng Lake hairy crabs is available in domestic first and second-tier cities, and they can be sent to more than 200 cities within 48 hours. Put it another way, it is more convenient and quicker for gourmets nationwide to enjoy fresh hairy crabs. Yangcheng Lake hairy crabs with sweet and fresh flavors are about to arrive. Are you ready to be the first one to taste the delicious crabs?

GAOCHUN GUCHENG LAKE CRAB FESTIVAL

— *Wang Chao*

Gucheng Lake crab from Gaochun District in Nanjing is another seeded competitor on the dining table.

"Three meat dishes, three vegetable dishes, and one soup (snails, small fish, shrimps, beans, corn, water grass, and lake water)" are always listed on the menu of Gucheng Lake crabs in Gaochun. The crabs would embrace the moment of glory in autumn every year.

In ancient times, Gucheng Lake was a part of the Danyang Great Lake. Enjoying lush water plants and abundant crab feeds, Gucheng Lake is the top habitat in the Yangtze River for Chinese mitten crabs. Owing to the rich minerals in lake water, crabs growing in Gucheng Lake have golden crabs and yellow hairs, which is an obvious feature of Gucheng Lake crabs. Apart from the unique appearance, fat and fresh meat with extraordinary flavors is also a distinctive advantage of Gucheng Lake crabs.

The year 2001 witnessed the first Crab Festival in Gaochun, which is hosting the 22nd Gucheng Lake Crab Festival in this autumn. According to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Bureau of Gaochun District, the total production of crabs in Gaochun District this year is estimated to be 18,500 tons.

Ordered in the morning, the crabs can be delivered at dusk. Mo Zhi-jian, general manager of Nanjing Postal Branch, said that the crabs of Gucheng Lake can be delivered in the morning the same day to consumers in the same city. For those in Jiangsu and some cities in the Yangtze River Delta, they can receive crabs the next day morning after ordering. Next day delivery has been achieved in many cities across the country.

In the past two decades, the crab farms have been above 133 km². In December, 2020, Gaochun established the first national modern agricultural park led by the crab breeding industry. Aquaculture featuring crab breeding has become the most important landmark industry in

Gaochun, which brings wealth to the local people.

As the first "slow city" in China recognized by the International Cittaslow Organization, Gaochun also takes pride in its natural scenes and pastoral views. The scenic area, Gucheng Lake Slow City, is built around the lake, offering a leisure holiday for visitors in autumn. Guchang Lake Crab Festival has been held here in recent years. A sea of flower, a wetland zoo, and crab themed activities are all highlights of the resort. Connecting with the scenic area with a sophisticated water network, Gucheng Lake shares beautiful lotus flowers, flocks of water birds, and countless fish and shrimps with tourists from around the world. Reeds and pampas grass sway in the gentle autumn breeze, creating a tranquil picture of the lake.

During the Crab Festival, scenic areas in Gaochun have launched full and varied activities. Gucheng Lake Slow City attraction carried out activities such as crab-eating competitions; Yaxi International Slow City held the 2nd Cittaslow Flower Art Festival, when the sunflowers were in full bloom. The Youzi Mountain scenic area held the 1st Spirit of China Culture and Life Festival. The 2022 Jiangsu Provincial Youth Sailing and Windsurfing Championship and the first Gaochun Cittaslow Martial Arts Cultural Festival was hosted, integrating agriculture, culture, tourism and sports. Want to enjoy delicious crab and join the harvest? Welcome to Gaochun in autumn.



JIANGSU CRABS

— Samantha and Fang Fei

The Yangtze River stretches for more than 430 km in Jiangsu and nourishes the land of abundance before entering the sea. Since 2020 when Jiangsu imposed a fishing ban, fishermen have started to feed crabs in fish ponds and set up ecological fishing entertainment. During this year's National Day holiday, more visitors were enjoying "charm of Jiangsu". They have experienced the unique style and culture of fishing villages by taking boat trips, fishing for crabs, appreciating the lake scenery, picking water chestnuts and fruits and eating homemade dishes.

QIN LAKE BAMBOO WEIR CRAB

Qin Lake bamboo weir crab is featured with delicate and high-quality crab meat. As an old saying goes, "Hairy crab in the south and bamboo weir crab in the north". Water blooms and other plants thrive on the river bed of Qin Lake and offer abundant nutrients to the bamboo weir crabs.

Every year in spring, young crabs would swim against the stream along the Yangtze River and settle down in Qin Lake where the water flows are gentler and food is sufficient. The crabs grow in summer gradually and then return back to the Yangtze River in autumn. At that time, crabbers would put bamboo sticks which are a little higher than the water surface in the river channel and place bamboo baskets at both sides. This set of devices is called "bamboo weir". Crabs that could climb over the bamboo sticks are all strong and powerful crabs of high quality. This "test" would only select crabs with fat meat and excellent tastes. The crab roe looks like cream with the colors of golden and red. The crab meat is incomparably delicious with lingering attractive smells, sweet and fresh flavors, and tender texture.



Xinghua Red hairy crabs and Jiangsha crabs are also local specialties of Xinghua City in Taizhou. And steaming is the best cooking method. Soft and smooth meat along with red and oily crab roe create delicious tastes.

HONGZE LAKE CRAB

Hongze Lake is the fourth largest freshwater lake in China, known as the origin producing place of Hongze Lake crab. Male crabs of this kind have white meat like jade while the crab roe of female crabs is yellow as gold. No one can reject the fat, big, and delicious Hongze Lake crab.

CHANGDANG LAKE CRAB

The green-shelled Changdang Lake crabs have special flavors. Connected with the Yangtze River in the north and Taihu Lake in the south, Changdang Lake has unique natural environments, which cultivate delicate hairy crabs with thick crab roe and glutinous meat. The white and tender crab meat is extremely fresh and sweet. Apart from crab, Changdang Lake also has a rich variety of aquatic products. Moreover, it is an important habitat for egrets,

siskins, yellow wild chicken, wild ducks, and other animals. Sailing by boat on Changdang Lake in autumn is definitely an impressive journey for delicacies.

DAZONG LAKE CRAB

Crabs from Dazong Lake in Yancheng City are the most ideal dishes with the wine because of their good taste. The Dazong Lake crab is able to stand on a piece of glass with their claws and legs, which is unmatched for other kinds of crabs. Moreover, in late autumn, the golden reed marsh would attract numerous tourists, bringing a sense of mystery to the crab meals.

LUOMA LAKE CRAB

Luoma Lake is the perfect habitat for long-term residence of crabs and is abundant in "king crabs" of large sizes. The Luoma Lake crab is somewhat of a local celebrity. Known as the "overlord crabs" in the past, Luoma Lake crabs share the same demeanor and overwhelming powers as Xiang Yu, the Overlord of Western Chu who was born in Suqian.



WEISHAN LAKE CRAB

Weishan Lake in Xuzhou has clear water, enough sunshine, and lush water plants, which is a "crystal palace" for crabs to grow. Weishan Lake crabs are covered with green shells above and white belly below. They would leave lingering flavors to people after tasting them.

XIANGSHUO LAKE CRAB

The output of Xiangshuo Lake crabs is considerably high in Lianyungang City. They are larger with more meat and good tastes. The crab meat is white and the meat texture is delicate. The claw is especially delicious owing to threadlike sweet meat. The thick roe is a vault for gold.

GAOYOU LAKE CRAB & BAOYING LAKE CRAB

Crabs of Gaoyou Lake and Baoying Lake represent another name card for Yangzhou City. Growing up in the well-preserved wetland ecosystem, the crabs are famous for their red crab roe and excellent flavors.

AROMATIC VINEGAR AND YELLOW WINE BEST MATCH WITH CRABS

— Ju Shenshi

Never should you forget the three perfect partners of crabs -- ginger, vinegar, and yellow wine. Gingers could warm up the body. Vinegar may wipe out the fishy smells of crabs. And yellow wines would disinfect and dispel the coldness.

Zhenjiang is regarded as the "City of Vinegar". Zhenjiang vinegar, honored as one of the best four vinegars in China, is included in the China's geographic indication product list. Compared with other types, Zhenjiang vinegar has a special type of aroma which condenses the colors, smells, and profound flavors in one sip. Sour, aromatic, and a little bit sweet, the attractive tastes would never disappoint us after preserving for a long period but become increasingly mellow with time.

In front of hairy crabs and other delicacies, the sweetness of Zhenjiang vinegar could set off the freshness of crabs. More importantly, the production processes of Zhenjiang vinegar are included in the first list of national intangible heritages as representative traditional techniques.

In Traditional Chinese Medicine, crabs have cold properties. And a cup of wine could promote blood circulation and warm up the body, and then further release the uncomfortableness after eating the crabs. Even Lin Daiyu, a character in *A Dream of Red Mansions* who could only drink little wine, would take a sip of "wine with silk tree flowers" after eating crabs.

Yellow wine is a common ingredient in crab dishes and was also a good partner for crabs since ancient times. Cold crabs and warm yellow wines, such as Hengshun flower wine, a kind of yellow wine produced in Zhenjiang, are the perfect match.

Hengshun flower wine is made from fresh sticky rice and grained rice. After more than 20 procedures including soaking, steaming, drying, mixing with distiller's yeast, fermentation in open containers, stirring, fermentation in sealed containers, squeezing, clarifying, and simmering, yellow wine in the color of amber with mild tastes is born. The strong aroma stretches miles away and wins the heart of many people, while fragrant and sweet flavors could be magnified gradually in the mouth, which is a journey of delicacies across thousands of years.



White cattail wine from Rugao City in Nantong is also well-known. This kind of wine selects grained rice from the Lixia River area as the raw materials. The color is bright and clear and the taste is refreshing and smooth.

Sweet crab meat, rich crab roe, and the fine wines make the supreme enjoyment. Suqian is the "City of Liquor" in China. Yanghe New District and Shuanggou Town are two famous liquor bases. In addition, crystal hawthorn cake and spiced rutabaga are also local special dishes which won the international golden prizes. Pig head, Baji peanut, Xinyuan mutton, silver fish with crab meat, Qianji geese, and Hongze Lake hairy crab present a brilliant family feast at the Mid-Autumn Festival.



Nourishing Delicacies

— Li Jiayue and Fang Fei

In Traditional Chinese Medicine, crabs have cold properties, so don't eat too much once. When the autumn wind rises and the dry autumn comes, there must be some sweet, soft and nourishing delicacies.

CHINESE CHESTNUT

Shaodian Town in Xuzhou is one of the key producing areas of Chinese chestnut in China. The fruit of Chinese chestnut in Shaodian is tender and delicate. It tastes crunchy when eaten raw. The shell is thin and easy to peel, and the taste is sweet and glutinous.

Chestnut of Nanshan, Liyang is famous for its thin shell, large fruit, sweet and glutinous taste. It is also known as "pearl chestnut". If eaten raw, it tastes crisp and tender, which resembles sweet-scented osmanthus, so it is also called "sweet-scented osmanthus chestnut". Cooked with ingredients, the chestnut will be more delicious, soft and palatable. So it is very suitable for cooking with country chickens, ducks and so on.

TRAO

Also known as Chinese eddo, it tastes soft, sweet and glutinous. A bowl of sweet-scented osmanthus taro seedlings is very popular on the streets in autumn. The soft and smooth taro is very delicious when steamed and dipped in sugar. Mashed taro can be served with dessert soup, and taro is also very suitable for meat dishes, such as braised ribs with taro, roast chicken with taro and so on.

Red taro of Jianchang Town, Jintan District, Changzhou is an excellent present. Jianchang has a long history of planting red taro. Because of its slightly exposed red peel, sweet taste, it is called "red taro". In addition, taro of Xinmao, Taicang City; Longxiang taro of Xinghua City; Xiangsha taro of Jingjiang, Taizhou City; Xianghe taro of Taixing, Taizhou City, fragrant taro of Haimen, Nantong City are highly recommended.



YAM

It is also a nutritious high quality goods, and the taste of soft and glutinous of chestnut and taro is somewhat similar to that of yam. Chinese yam is rich in cellulose and mucoprotein, which has the function of invigorating the spleen and stomach. Yam of Qidong, Nantong City is an agro-product with national geographical indication. It turns slightly sweet when cooked and thick when boiled. When it is stir-fried, a unique flavor will emerge.

The yam produced in Xuzhou is also highly recommended. Burdock, which tastes similar to yam, is also a specialty of Xuzhou cuisine. Burdock tea is a good gift on holidays. In addition, honey pumpkin porridge, herb Chuanbei and almond porridge, Yixing lily with lotus seeds and Tremella boiled porridge are all quality goods for nourishing stomach and spleen in autumn.

GINKGO NUT

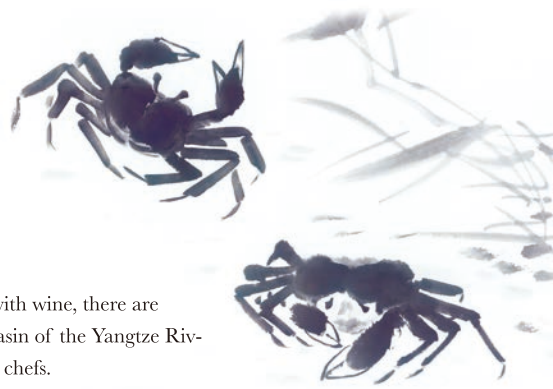
Ginkgo nut is sweet, soft, and nutritious. Ginkgo with salt and pepper, ginkgo porridge and fried shrimp with ginkgo are all very nourishing, but do not eat too much each time. Ginkgo of Pizhou, Xuzhou City is a national geographical indication product of China. Ginkgo of Taixing, Taizhou City is also very famous. With large kernel, thin shell, and plump pulp, it is a tonic.

CRAB DELICACIES

— Miya Tian and Neva Gao

Steamed bun stuffed with pork and crab roe, crab roe tofu, and crabs preserved with wine, there are countless delicacies made from crabs. The crab season for people in the lower basin of the Yangtze River ends in late autumn. How to prolong the tasty season is a challenging task for chefs.

Among various dishes made from crabs, tuhuangyou, or crab butter merely made of crab roe is the most luxurious one. Pouring shining crab roe on the hot rice will create one of the best dishes in the world.



STEAMED BUNS WITH CRAB MEAT

Steamed buns with crab meat is a traditional snack in Yangzhou and other cities. Covered with thin crust and stuffed with meat and crab roe, the buns are delicious and nutritious. Main ingredients include powder, crab oil, crab meat, crab roe, crab fat, and boneless pig leg meat. The buns are delicious with attractive smells.



CRAB MEAT LION HEAD

"Three heads" are the most famous representatives of Huaiyang Cuisine, and steamed crab meat lion head is the best of them. "Lion head" actually refers to a large meatball. Half of the fat meat is melted down after boiling while the lean meat would bump up like coils on stone lions. Fat and tender pork, fresh and delicious crab meat, refreshing cabbages, and a red and shining crab roe on the top present a surprise to customers.



STEAMED BUN STUFFED WITH PORK AND CRAB ROE IN JINGJIANG OF TAIZHOU

This dish built its reputation in the Ming and Qing dynasties. The raw materials are carefully selected. Crab roe and crab meat are the main ingredients and chicken soup is filled in the dumplings. Only delicate and scrupulous cook could make such a dish. To enjoy the steamed buns stuffed with pork and crab roe, you must remember a 12-word guidance -- lift it softly, move it slowly, make an opening, and suck the soup.



HUAI'AN WENLOU STEAMED BUN STUFFED WITH PORK AND CRAB ROE

Huai'an Wenlou steamed bun stuffed with pork and crab roe made its mark in the ruling time of Emperor Daoguang in the Qing Dynasty. Wenlou Restaurant in Hexia County and Quxianglou Restaurant near Xiaohu Lake in Huai'an stand on the two sides of the river face to face. Many literati would gather here to enjoy the crab dishes and appreciate chrysanthemums. They also wrote poems while enjoying the liquor and wine. Former Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai who was born in Huai'an once recalled his childhood, "Every year in October, I would sail down the river in a boat and eat steamed buns stuffed with pork and crab roe in Wenlou." For hundreds of years, Wenlou steamed bun stuffed with pork and crab roe has been renowned for its favors and has built its reputation in every place.



LOTUS CRAB SHELL

After steaming the crabs, cooks would pick up meat from crab legs, claws, shells and make them into crab powder together with crab roe. Next, a little bit of scallions and ginger would be added. Then, cooks would stir-fry them and season the dish with vinegar and salt. Then, put the meat ball back into the shell and apply egg white on the crab shell. Finally, the crab shells would be steamed again. The egg white against the golden shell looks like the sunset on snow. Just one bite would create a splendid miracle.



FRIED CRAB MEAT AND ROE WITH SHELLD SHRIMPS AND GREEN BEANS

This is a famous dish of Huaiyang Cuisine testing the skills of a chef. Fried crab meat and roe keep the freshness and sweetness. Green beans and gorgon fruits bring new flavors and experience to the soft crab roes and tender shelled shrimps.



CRAB MEAT WITH ORANGES

This dish was firstly recorded in *Folklores in Autumn*, Volume 84 of *Ancient Traditions* written by Du Wenlan in the Southern Song Dynasty. "Oranges, crabs and the moon, along with fresh wine, chrysanthemum, and heaven". People keep integrating themselves with the history and renovating the old heritages. If you spoon out crab meat from the oranges and taste the freshness and fragrance, the ultimate interests and ingenuity of crab passing down from our ancestors would unfold in front of you.



ZHONGZHUANG CRAB PRESERVED WITH LIQUOR

Zhongzhuang crab preserved with liquor originated from Zhongbaozhuang in Xinghua City of Taizhou. There are more than 20 cooking steps, including crab selection, soaking, drying, unhairing, stuffing, and putting in sealed containers. The color of preserved crabs is as lively as that of live crabs. In 1915, Zhongzhuang crab preserved with liquor won the golden prize for food in Panama Pacific International Exposition, on which Maotai liquor was awarded the golden prize for liquor. Good liquor and dainty dishes won the golden prizes at the same time, leaving a legend in the history.

FLESHING OUT IN AUTUMN

— Fang Fei and Geng Chunxiao



After the hot summer days, people will gradually regain their lost appetite as autumn approaches. Autumn is the very season to put on weight. "Fleshing out in autumn" is called "tie qiu biao", which literally means adding fat to your body. The top choice is meat.

The dishes suitable to flesh out in autumn include braised pork with taro, braised chicken with chestnut, braised pork with bamboo shoots, braised sliced pork, Bazirou pork, large meatball, lotus root soup with pork ribs and so on. Made of meat in large chunks and ingredients in bulk, they taste delectable, enough to comfort the stomach and heart of diners in the cool autumn.

In the golden autumn, rich aquatic products in charming Jiangsu work up people's appetite. In such coastal cities as Lianyungang, Yancheng and Nantong, fishermen often process and dry the shrimps, and marinate and dry small pomfrets, eels, yellow croakers, hairtails etc. The tradition is called "Shaiqiu", or "drying harvest in autumn sunshine".

Qinhu Lake ripples eight delicacies gain a widespread reputation. On the table are served a pair of Qinhu crabs, moderately spicy spiral shells, boiled freshwater shrimps with transparent shells, fried whitebait with blue-shell eggs, shrimp balls, fish cake, mixed stew of fish balls as well as stewed mussel with firm tofu. On top of those, the eight delicacies including a plate of water celery and water chestnuts are absolutely finger-licking.

Modern people are particular about fleshing out in autumn. They need to warm the stomach and nourish the body, but avoid excessive rich food. It is the freshwater shrimp produced throughout Jiangsu Province that is particularly recommended for its high protein and low fat, supplementing calcium and benefiting the body. Shrimps of Hongze Lake, Sihong County, Suqian are so delectable that they have been displayed at the 1910 Nanyang Industrial Exposition and the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Freshwater shrimps of Yongning subdistrict, Pukou District, Nanjing are large and transparent with thin shells, so people would never get enough. Freshwater shrimps of Liyang County, Changzhou are tender and fresh, thus popular among diners; freshwater shrimps of Jianhu Lake, Yancheng are scrumptious no matter boiled in salt water or oil stir-fried. Baima Lake shrimps are also well-known. Baima Lake is home to lush water plants, creating unique conditions for the growth of freshwater



shrimps. That's one of the reasons that the shrimps are al dente.

The duck in autumn is nutritious and fatty, and it is a custom in many parts of Jiangsu to drink duck soup. The deep-fried duck is a famous dish in Suzhou and Wuxi in autumn and is also a representation of Taihu cuisine. In the past, the boatmen on the Taihu Lake cooked the whole duck in clay pots with its, original soup, rich flavor and tender texture. Combined with quality soy sauce, the duck tasted even better.

Nanjing saltwater duck presents its best taste around the Mid-Autumn Festival. As a Chinese Geographical Indication product, Nanjing saltwater duck has white skin and tender flesh, rich in flavor but not greasy. It reputedly tastes at its best before and after the Mid-Autumn Festival when the sweet-scented osmanthus flowers in full blossom.

In the Western Jin Dynasty, a scholar named Zhang Han from Suzhou was working in Luoyang, Henan Province. When autumn was coming, he resigned from his post and returned to his hometown because he missed Braseniaschreberi soup and weever slices in his hometown. The renowned story has become a reminder of the taste of Jiangnan in autumn. People tend to feel nostalgic in autumn for the people and hometown, and especially the unique taste and fragrance of home.



Mooncake & Double Ninth Cake

— Chloe Jiang and Geng Chunxiao

Mooncakes are a typical symbol of the Mid-Autumn Festival. For gourmets, the Mid-Autumn Festival can also be referred to as Mooncake Festival.

Su-Style mooncakes are deeply loved by people in Jiangsu because of their crust and delicious filling. Su-Style mooncakes are made of sugar and flour, and their fillings can be minced pork, red bean, multnuts, mixed nuts, white lotus, hams, salted egg yolk and other varieties.

The pastry of Su-Style mooncakes is made by hand layer by layer. It is as thin as cicada wings, overlapping with each other, just like people's continuous homesickness under the Mid-Autumn moon.



Nowadays, healthy and low-sugar mooncakes have become the mainstream of mooncake consumption. On e-commerce platforms, some time-honored brands launched low-sugar mooncake gift boxes to meet customers' pursuit of health. Sales data from e-commerce platforms showed that low-sugar mooncakes, sugar-free mooncakes, snow-skin mooncakes and lava mooncakes were vying for consumers' attention. In addition, the data also revealed that the young generation preferred mini mooncakes. That explained why many mooncake manufacturers endeavored to reduce the weight of mooncakes, some of which were as small as coin cookies.

In addition to eating mooncakes, eating delicious sweet-scented osmanthus cakes is also a good choice for celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival. Steamed sweet-scented osmanthus cakes are very sticky. Fragrance and sweetness complement each other, lingering and intoxicating.

Sweet-scented osmanthus cake is also a representative delicacy of the Double Ninth Festival, which is celebrated on ninth day of the ninth

month on the Chinese lunar calendar. The traditional Chinese festival is also a festival for the elderly. In Chinese, "Nine-Nine" is homophonic with "a long time". In the old days, the ancients offered sacrifices to their ancestors and cared for and sent blessings to the elderly. Climbing mountain, wearing dogwood, eating Double Ninth cake, drinking chrysanthemum wine and other activities have been around for a long time.

The production of Double Ninth cake is very fastidious. Candied fruit and preserved jujube are embedded on the cake, rice noodles and fruit materials are used as raw materials. There are five colors on the cake with some sweet-scented osmanthus sprinkled on the cake and a small flag placed on cake instead of dogwood. In fact, both mooncakes and Double Ninth cakes represent people's good wishes and expectations for health, harmony and reunion.



Rhyme and Poetry in Romantic Jiangsu

— Geng Chunxiao

In spring, "World Literature Living Room", was officially opened, which is located at the foot of Purple Mountain and ancient Jilong Mountain in Nanjing, a UNESCO City of Literature. More than 1,500 years ago, it was the site of the first literature museum in Chinese history, but now it has become the center and hub of the network construction of Nanjing literature space. Since opening up, it has been providing literary exchange and activity space for literature lovers and the general public.



In autumn, wonderful activities were held here, such as the poetry game of "Feihualing" at the Mid-Autumn Festival light show, the international cultural salon, the launching ceremony of "Show Jiangsu" photography activity and so on. Through these activities, people learned that many ancient literary works were created in Jiangsu, including *Critique of Poetry*, the first monograph on poetry theory and criticism in China, *Carving a Dragon at the Core of Literature*, the first book on literary theory and criticism in China, *Thousand Character Classic*, the first book on children's enlightenment, *Zhao Ming Selected Works*, the earliest existing collection of poems and essays, *A New Account of the Tales of the World*, which recorded true stories of the intellectuals in the Wei and Jin Dynasties, and *Recipes from the Garden of Contentment*, a must-see book for foodies.

From Wang Xizhi, Li Bai, Cao Xueqin, and Xu Xiake to modern literary and educational masters such as Lu Xun, Xu Beihong, Ba Jin, Zhu Ziqing, Qian Zhongshu, Yu Pingbo, Zhang Henshui, Mei Lanfang and Zhang Jian, all had certain connections with Jiangsu. Pearl S. Buck, Nobel laureate in Literature, even regarded Zhenjiang as her "hometown". This year marks the 130th anniversary of her birth.

Literature can help purify people's mind, while art can help people communicate with the world. Let's walk into the former residences, museums and memorial halls of these celebrities. Let's come to Jiangsu to feel the past and the present, and met an artistic and romantic Jiangsu.

Xu Beihong's Demeanour

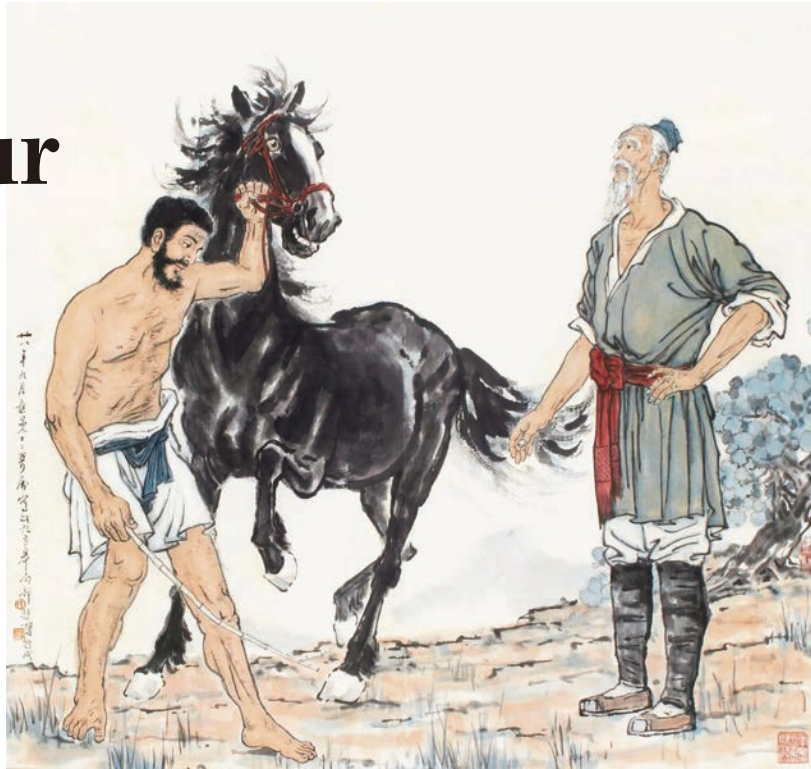
— Sherry from France
Academy of Fine Arts of Florence Student

Xu Beihong, a renowned Chinese contemporary painter and art educator, was born on July 19, 1895 in Qitingqiao Town of Yixing, 15 km west of Taihu Lake.

Beginning in 1919, Xu Beihong left China for France to further his studies. In 1923, he attended École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts. He was proficient in both Chinese and Western painting, especially in painting horses. He was one of the founders of contemporary fine arts education in China.



Xu Beihong was connected with France, my homeland and had a close association with Nanjing. There is a Xu Beihong Memorial Hall in Nanjing, located at No.4 Fuhougang Road, Gulou District. It is a small but



⬆ Xu Beihong's Painting works——
Horse-master Jiu Fang Gao

delicate two-story building built in 1932. At the right side of the building, there is a painting room built according to the needs of Xu Beihong's painting creation. In the past, there were two towering white poplar trees in the courtyard, and it was said that they could be seen from the former Xiaguan Railway Station. When Xu lived there, he was especially prolific. By fully integrating Chinese and Western painting arts, Xu created a huge oil painting, *Horse-master Jiu Fang Gao*, as well as numerous fascinating works such as *Buffalo and the Herd Boy*, *Pine, Rock and Cat* and *Ink Bamboo*. Thus, the residence witnessed his art creative process and art education history when he was in Jiangsu.

Xu Beihong organized exhibitions that traveled to France, Italy, Belgium, and Switzer-

land etc. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the friendship between Tuscany, where my university is located, and Jiangsu Province. The master Xu Beihong, born in Jiangsu, had also been to Florence.

Florence, the capital city of Tuscany, is both a cultural tourist attraction and a treasure house of world culture and art, where Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo among others once lived. I like Uffizi Gallery in Florence best.

Xu Beihong's Demeanour - the First Oil Painting Biennale kicked off at the new museum of Jiangsu Provincial Art Museum in 2022. I am particularly looking forward to coming to Jiangsu and visiting Jiangsu Provincial Art Museum which is as time-honored as Uffizi Gallery.

Pearl S. Buck: Chinkiang Is My Home City

— Frank Hossack

This year marks the 130th birthday of the Nobel Prize winner Pearl S. Buck, and Zhenjiang, Jiangsu, is the "hometown" of the famous American writer.

As the only female writer of the 20th century to win the Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize for Literature, Buck and her parents came to China three months after she was born and lived here for nearly 40 years, 18 years of which was in Zhenjiang. She called Chinese her "first language". Buck once wrote affectionately in her autobiography *My Several Worlds*: Chinkiang is my home city.

In Zhenjiang, there are sesame toffees, glutinous rice cakes, glutinous rice dumplings wrapped in reed leaves, crabs, and sesame cakes that Buck loved to eat as a child. She often had a picnic on the mountain with her friends, and visited Jindao (Jinshan Mountain) or Yindao (Jiaoshan Mountain). In the morning and evening, she wandered among

the mountains (Nanshan Mountain). Her childhood life in hilly areas laid a foundation for the depiction of farmers living on the plains of Suzhou City of the neighboring Anhui Province.

Based on her experience growing up in Zhenjiang, Buck wrote a classic novel *The Good Earth*, which was awarded a Pulitzer Prize and a Nobel Prize for Literature. It was the best-selling novel in the United States in both 1931 and 1932, and was among the most popular novels of the 20th century.

Pearl S. Buck had a deep affection for China. She was a close friend of some Chinese artists and writers such as Mei Lanfang, Lao She, Xu Zhimo and Lin Yutang. She also spent more than five years translating *Shuihuzhuan*, one of the Four Great Classical Novels of China into English. It was published in the United States under the title *All Men are Brothers*, making her the first person to translate the book into



English and get it published in the West.

While Buck spoke Chinese with a strong Zhenjiang accent, then US President Richard Nixon praised her as "a human bridge between the civilizations of the East and West". Her mother, Caroline Stulting, and four siblings were all buried in Zhenjiang.

The former residence of Pearl S. Buck is located in Dengyun Mountain in Zhenjiang. In 1990, Zhenjiang Municipal Government and Tempe City of the United States jointly funded the renovation for her former residence. In 1992, Zhenjiang City Friendship Exchange Center was established here, which was later renamed Former Residence of Pearl S. Buck. This old building is preserving Buck's love to the beautiful Zhenjiang, and also her passion for China.

TIPS

Former Residence of Pearl S. Buck

Opening hours: closed on Mondays

Tel: 0511-84495665

Transportation: 2 km from Zhenjiang Railway Station, 5 minutes' drive



Visiting the Place Where the Author of *A Dream of Red Mansions* was Born

— Jo from Greece
University of Athens Student

A Dream of Red Mansions is my favorite Chinese literature. In 2019 I picked up a new Greek edition. Over the years, each time I open it, it gave me something new to read. My mother also loves it. The Greek version of *A Dream of Red Mansions* was first published by Fexis Publication in 1963, which was translated from English by the Greek philosopher, educator and writer Eli Lambridi.

In my mother's opinion, *A Dream of Red Mansions* resembles *Homer's Epics* as it portrays many details so that people will have a better understanding about the life of ancient Chinese. As far as I'm concerned, the twelve beauties of Jinling are as gorgeous as the goddesses of *Greek Mythology*, with their own personalities. Xue Baochai, for example, is as wise and calm as Athena. The female figures in both works are everlasting examples of the literary works. No matter the Greek goddesses or ladies in the Red Mansions, they are all shining with the charm of personalities.

Nanjing, a UNESCO City of Literature is the hometown of Cao Xueqin, the author of *A Dream of Red Mansions* and the origin of the artistic source of the world-famous work. Jiangning Imperial Silk Manufacturing Museum in Nanjing, is a modern museum built on the historic site of Jiangning Imperial Silk Manufacturing of the Qing Dynasty. It was where Cao Xueqin was born and grew up.

The museum was designed by a famous architect, Wu Liangyong, who has won World Habitat Award and Jean Tschumi Prize. The musuem is a classic work which combines modern architectural style and traditional garden architecture.

Jiangning Imperial Silk Manufacturing is one of the silk manufacturing institutions set up by the Qing royal court in Nanjing for the production of silk and satin and other royal clothing items. The silk manufacturing machine room has created the peak and glory of Chinese cloud-pattern brocade handicraft.



Cloud-pattern brocade refers to the general name of all kinds of jacquard silk fabrics mainly brocade produced in Nanjing. It is famous for its fine and complex silk manufacturing handicraft and magnificent and beautiful color and patterns. It is a milestone of ancient Chinese silk manufacturing handicraft. In 2009, the manufacturing handicraft of Nanjing cloud-pattern brocade was listed as intangible cultural heritage of humanity by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Jiangning Imperial Silk Manufacturing Museum has an exhibition hall of "Suite of the Red Chamber". This year marks the 50th anniversary of Greece-China diplomatic relations. I hope that more Greeks will read the fabulous Chinese novel, increasing exchanges in literature between our two countries. I am looking forward to entering the museum at an early date where I can feel the craftsmanship of Nanjing Brocade, enjoy "Suite of the Red Mansions" and walk into the dream of Red Mansions woven with colorful brocades.

Six Dynasties Through the Oriental Metropolitan Museum

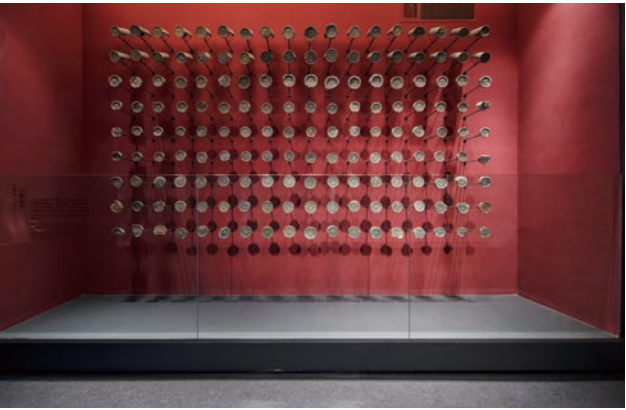
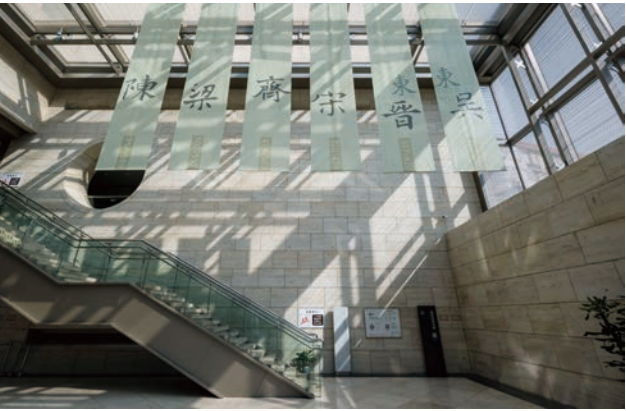
— Victoria Tao and Fang Fei

About 600 meters walk from Jiangning Imperial Silk Manufacturing Museum is the Oriental Metropolitan Museum, the largest museum in Nanjing to display the cultural relics and the history and culture of the six dynasties. The site of the museum is part of ruins of Jiankang in the six dynasties.

During the time of six dynasties, Nanjing was the capital of Wu, Eastern Jin, Song, Qi, Liang and Chen dynasties from the third to the sixth century AD. It was also the economic, cultural, political and military center at that time. Nanjing was a world-famous oriental cosmopolitan city.

The Oriental Metropolitan Museum was designed by the son of Ieoh Ming Pei, and Pei's design elements can be strongly felt in the museum. The design of the exhibition hall makes full use of geometry, light and shadow, fabric and other elements. There are almost no real walls in the exhibition hall, but plants such as bamboo and lotus leaves are used to set off the landscape, and then the light and shadow effect is used to make the inside of the hall visually transparent and the scenery changes as you walk.

The museum has four permanent exhibitions: the imperial capital of the six dynasties, the elegant demeanor of the six dynasties, the outstanding people of the six dynasties and looking back on the six dynasties. We hereby invite you to feel the splendid "civilization of the six dynasties".



TIPS

Jiangning Imperial Silk Manufacturing Museum

Opening hours: closed on Mondays

How to book:

Make an appointment in advance on the homepage of the WeChat public account, id jnzzmuseum

Tel: 025-52243204

Transportation: 8 km from Nanjing Railway Station, 20 minutes' drive

The Oriental Metropolitan Museum

Opening hours: closed on Mondays

How to book:

Make an appointment in advance on the homepage of the WeChat public account, id njlcbwg

Tel: 025-52326032

Transportation: 7 km from Nanjing Railway Station, 18 minutes' drive

La La Land:

Jiangsu Centre for the Performing Arts

— Fiona from Netherlands
Tilburg University Student

In Hexi Riverside New Town, Nanjing, four drop-shaped buildings stand elegantly along the Yangtze River Avenue, like dewdrops on lotus leaves. They form a group of soft and magnificent modern art buildings, which is Jiangsu Centre for the Performing Arts.

Among the four drop-shaped buildings of about 270,000 m², there is an opera hall with 2,037 seats, a concert hall with 1,476 seats, a theater hall with 1,014 seats, a variety hall with 2,540 seats, an international reporting hall with 746 seats, and a multi-functional hall with 325 seats, which are a cultural complex integrating performance management, plays production, art exchanges, art popularization and education.

Jiangsu Centre for the Performing Arts opened in August 2017. World-renowned conductor Zubin Mehta lit up the hall with the Israel Philharmon-

ic Orchestra. In the past five years, Jiangsu Centre for the Performing Arts has given more than 2,600 performances and over 400 brand art activities, benefiting more than 2.2 million audiences and art lovers, enriching the artistic atmosphere of "La La Land" in Nanjing.

Jiangsu Centre for the Performing Arts is committed to continuously introducing world-class plays, and simultaneously presents to the audience homemade works of art with Jiangsu characteristics, such as Chinese national dance drama *A Dream of Red Mansions*, the play *Under the Chaotian Palace*, the opera *170*

Days in Nanking and the piano concerto *Travels along the Canal*. Among them, the opera *170 Days in Nanking* reviews history from an objective international perspective, looks back on the humanitarian deeds of international friend John Rabe, and becomes the first domestic opera to be shortlisted for the International Opera Awards. In 2019, the play toured Europe for five times, which moved the audience in Rabe's hometown.

In recent years, Jiangsu Centre for the Performing Arts has successively launched international performance units such as "World Dance Theater" and "Mariinsky Art Festival". Theaters and artists from 60 countries and regions condense wisdom, emotion and art on "Lotus Leaf Droplets" in the form of music, drama and dance, so as to promote extensive cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries. *The Four Seasons* by the Dutch Concordia String Quartet Concert was staged here.

Ginkgo covers branches; golden leaves fall on the ground; koelreuteria paniculata turns golden red, and reeds sway in the wind... Across the street from Jiangsu Centre for the Performing Arts is Nanjing Riverside Park. Its scenery is attractive, with autumn flowers adding to the beauty of the adjacent Jiangsu Centre for the Performing Arts. There is a Dutch Friendship Park in Nanjing Riverside Park designed by Dutch designers. They combined the original geomorphological design of Nanjing China Green Expo Garden, introduced Dutch raw materials and technology, and implanted the original architecture and landscape of Van Gogh's hometown, Eindhoven, into the park, which is



a beautiful symbol of Sino-Dutch friendship.

Here with reference to Dutch gardens, there are authentic Dutch-style waterwheels, mills, windmills, farmhouses and other buildings and landscapes with strong Dutch customs, and most of the tulip seedlings here also come from the Netherlands. In the Dutch Friendship Park in autumn, the brilliant sunflower fields are amazing. The windmills, farmhouses, cows and Miffy dolls are so beautiful against the sea of sunflowers which make you seem to be in Van Gogh's oil paintings.



TIPS

Tel: 025-85437777

Transportation: 17 km from Nanjing
Railway Station, 25 minutes' drive

Nanjing Poly Theatre Designed by Zaha Hadid

— *Annie* from Canada
The University of British Columbia Student
Photographed by *Mao Jinsong*

Leopold Damrosch, the first director of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, once said that to know the civilization and soul of a city, it is enough to see its theatres.

In the summer of 2014, I was in Nanjing as a volunteer for the 2nd Youth Olympic Games. At that time, I witnessed a contemporary building with towering twin towers and a starship-shaped podium standing by the bank of the Yangtze River. Moving closer, I realized that it is a stunning theatre designed by the renowned structuralist design master Zaha Hadid. As a core component of the Nanjing International Youth Cultural Centre, the Nanjing Poly Theatre includes such supporting settings as a grand playhouse and a golden concert hall.

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra appeared in the Nanjing Poly Theater for the first time with its fabulous performances in October, 2014. Over the past seven years, the theatre has been introducing quality plays from all over the world. It has launched initiatives of the Nanjing Drama Festival, the European and American Symphonic

Music Seasons, the Poly Festival of Arts, the Weekend Concerts and the Nanjing Musical Festival. More than 1,000 performances have been held, attracting more than one million people to enter the theatre.

For more than 7 years, I constantly learnt from my We-Chat Moments that my friends have enjoyed the world art intellectual properties in the Nanjing Poly Theatre.

Countless famous artists

from home and abroad have shown on the stage of the Nanjing Poly Theatre, such as Wynton Marsalis, Arturo Sandoval and Richard Clayderman. World classics have been put on, including the original Broadway English musical *An American in Paris*, the original French musical *Mozart L'Opéra Rock* and the original version of London West End musical *The Bodyguard*. First-class orchestras have performed here, like the world's fourth largest symphony orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, the seventh largest one, Cleveland Orchestra of the United States, Vienna Symphony Orchestra of Austria, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Paris (PSL), one of the three major symphony orchestras of France, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, led by Wynton Marsalis, National Theatre of China and China National Opera & Dance Drama Theatre.

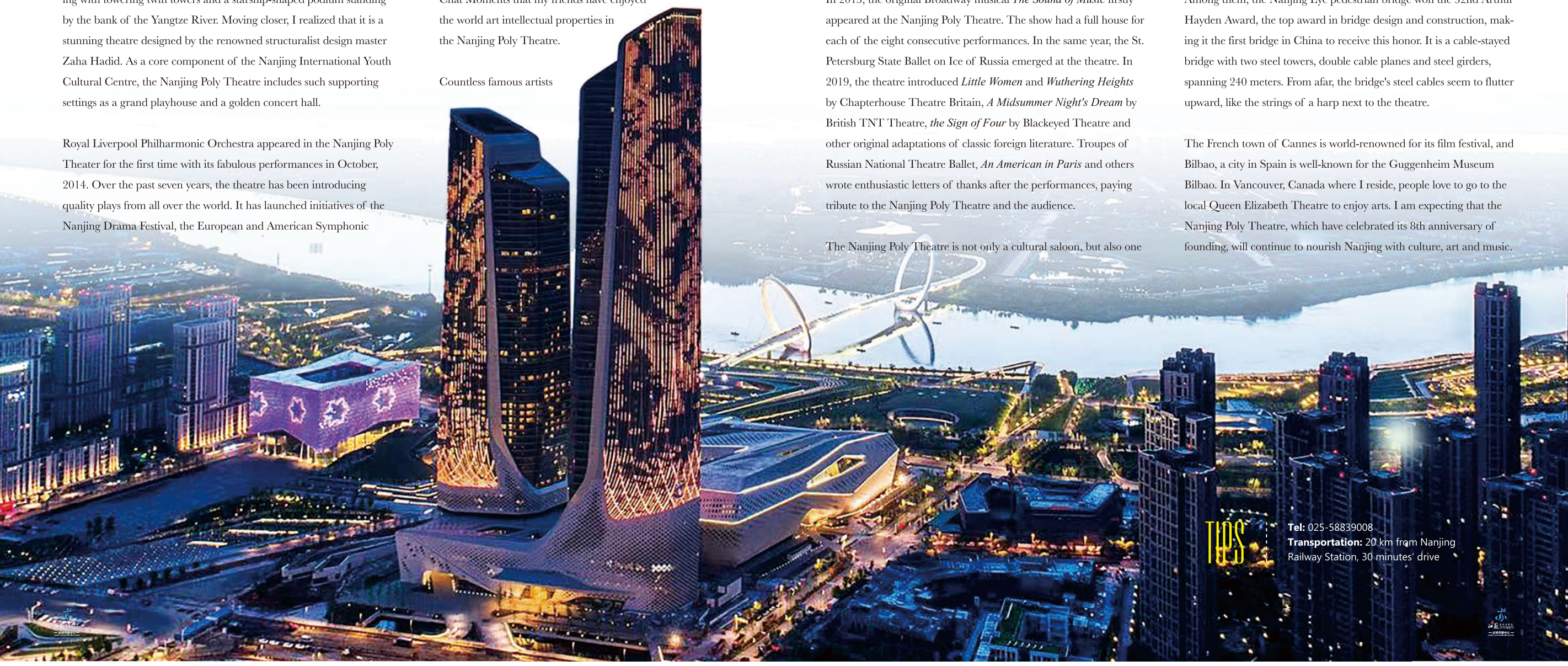
In 2015, the original Broadway musical *The Sound of Music* firstly appeared at the Nanjing Poly Theatre. The show had a full house for each of the eight consecutive performances. In the same year, the St. Petersburg State Ballet on Ice of Russia emerged at the theatre. In 2019, the theatre introduced *Little Women* and *Wuthering Heights* by Chapterhouse Theatre Britain, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by British TNT Theatre, *the Sign of Four* by Blackeyed Theatre and other original adaptations of classic foreign literature. Troupes of Russian National Theatre Ballet, *An American in Paris* and others wrote enthusiastic letters of thanks after the performances, paying tribute to the Nanjing Poly Theatre and the audience.

The Nanjing Poly Theatre is not only a cultural saloon, but also one



of the city's landmarks. It is opposite Jiangxin Zhou Island where the *Muhlenbergia capillaris* (hairawn muhly) is unmissable. There are also landmark buildings such as the Nanjing Eye pedestrian bridge, Nanjing Olympic Museum, and the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Village. Among them, the Nanjing Eye pedestrian bridge won the 32nd Arthur Hayden Award, the top award in bridge design and construction, making it the first bridge in China to receive this honor. It is a cable-stayed bridge with two steel towers, double cable planes and steel girders, spanning 240 meters. From afar, the bridge's steel cables seem to flutter upward, like the strings of a harp next to the theatre.

The French town of Cannes is world-renowned for its film festival, and Bilbao, a city in Spain is well-known for the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao. In Vancouver, Canada where I reside, people love to go to the local Queen Elizabeth Theatre to enjoy arts. I am expecting that the Nanjing Poly Theatre, which have celebrated its 8th anniversary of founding, will continue to nourish Nanjing with culture, art and music.



TIPS

Tel: 025-58839008
Transportation: 20 km from Nanjing
Railway Station, 30 minutes' drive

The Moon Represents My Heart

——Geng Chunxiao

On the 15th day of the 8th month of the Chinese lunar calendar, we celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, one of the four traditional festivals in China. From "new moon" to "white plate", the artistic conception of the Mid-Autumn Festival lies in "family reunion". The origin of the Mid-Autumn Festival is closely related to the moon. The ancients had a simple and persistent worship of the night of the full moon, which continues to this day and is etched in genes.

In Jiangsu Province, the Mid-Autumn Festival means the wonder of appreciating the moon, the elegance of outing under the moonlight in beautiful festival clothes, touring the garden and watching lanterns, guessing lantern riddles, and the joy of eating Su-Style mooncakes.

On the Mid-Autumn Festival night, the moon is particularly bright, and more than ever we miss our families far away. People climb the towers or take a boat to appreciate the moon, drink beneath the moonlight, compose poems and hold a banquet, all of which are traditions to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. Data released by Fliggy, an online travel platform, showed that "admiring the moon", as a traditional cultural custom of the Mid-Autumn Festival, has led to a rise in the popularity of the night trips across the country. Night excursion is the highlight of cultural and tourism consumption during the Mid-Autumn Festival holiday. Night trips such as boat trips, light shows and other night tourism items suitable for moon appreciation are favored by consumers.

During the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Inviting-Moon Ceremony at Oriental Salt Lake Resort, Changzhou was a restoration of the elegant gathering of the ancient Mid-Autumn Festival, with gorgeous fire-works lighting up the entire town. Spring and Autumn Yancheng Tourism Area held activities such as the ceremony of worshipping the moon and "Chang'e dancing", inviting visitors to enjoy the moon. Big data released by TravelGo showed that the natural scenery and cultural sites were preferred during the Mid-Autumn Festival holiday. Varied scenic spots launched such cultural activities as garden parties, cultural performances, and intangible cultural heritage experiences. These activities invoked travelers' interest, driving the popularity of cultural and historical sites up 154% during the holiday.

Known as the "Moon City", Yangzhou boasts the traditional folk ritual of moon worship at the Mid-Autumn Festival, which has been listed in the 4th batch of intangible cultural heritages in Jiangsu Province.

One of the symbols of the Mid-Autumn Festival in Suzhou is the folk of appreciating the string of moons by the Stone Lake. The so-called string means that moonlight passes through the nine holes to the north side of the water when the moon is in the west. At this time, the moon's shadow can be seen on the surface of the Stone Lake.

After the Mid-Autumn feast, people in Nanjing usually worship the moon. They offer moon cakes, fresh fruits, pagoda-shaped pastries, burn incense and worship the goddess of the moon. In addition, outing under the moon is also an old tradition. After the moon rises, people dress up in costumes, play under the moon, gossip with each other, or go to downtown temple fairs, and return home until late at night.

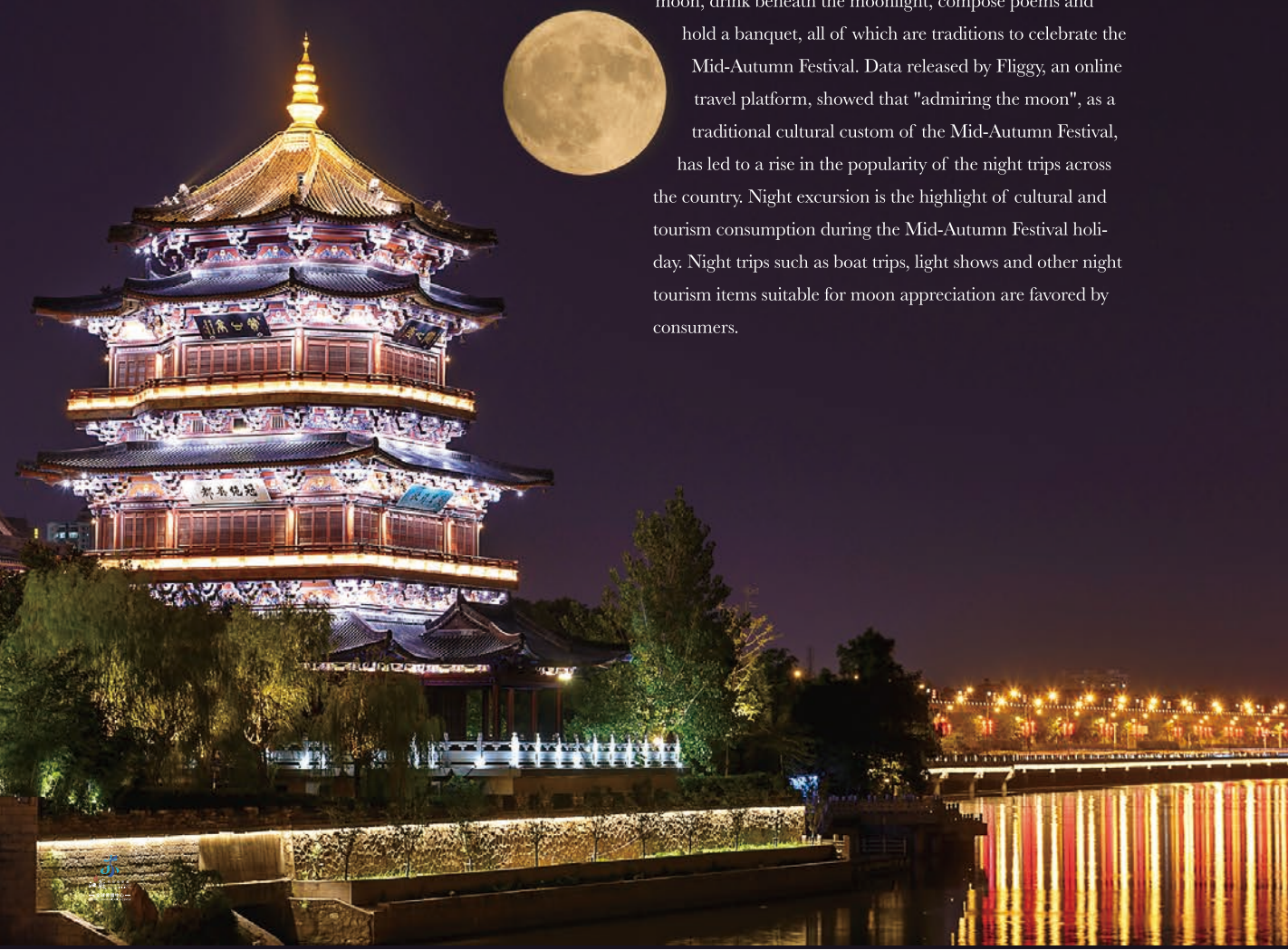


In the Ming Dynasty, Wangyue Tower and Wanyue Bridge were built in Nanjing. In the Qing Dynasty, Chaoyue Tower was built under Lion Mountain. Nowadays, Yuejiang Tower on Lion Mountain and Baoyue Tower by Mochou Lake are still good choices to admire the moon.



*Men have sorrow and joy;
they part or meet again;
The moon is bright or dim
and she may wax or wane.
There has been nothing perfect
since the olden days.
So let us wish that man
will live long as he can!
Though miles apart,
we'll share the beauty she displays.*

For thousands of years, many poets wrote poems about the moon in their famous works. There are many mythical stories about the Mid-Autumn Festival such as Chang'e Flying to the Moon, Wu Gang Cutting the Osmanthus Tree on the Moon, and Jade Rabbit Pounding Medicine, which are romantic and poetic. Today, we still appreciate, worship, celebrate and offer sacrifices to the moon on this traditional festival.



Spending a Reunion

——Geng Chunxiao

As the bright moon shines over the sea, from far away, you share this moment with me. This is not only the simple and lasting wish, but also romance of Chinese people. Whether we are thousands of years apart, or thousands of miles away, the scenes of looking up and admiring a bright moon are very similar, and missing families and friends and praying for reunion and harmony remain the same through the ages.

After the Mid-Autumn Festival, the National Day and Double Ninth Festival come one after another, bringing the golden holiday in autumn. Rich folk customs such as climbing up mountains, eating moon cakes and Double

Ninth cakes add the cultural connotations that have passed down through ages to the golden holiday. During these romantic festivals, some people may miss someone; some celebrate and some travel together; all these are happiness.

It is getting cooler with each autumn shower, but Jiangsu is still hot with its splendid activities. In late September, the 4th Grand Canal Culture and Tourism Expo kicked off in Suzhou. Around the Expo, varied activities were held in cities of Jiangsu. Nanjing held the 22nd China Gaochun Gucheng Lake Crab Festival; Wuxi celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day with fire-

work show and concert at the Yuantouzhu Island, Taihu; Xuzhou held Han Culture Tourism Festival; Changzhou, Chinese Fashion Ceremony; Nantong, Jianghai International Culture and Tourism Festival; Lianyungang, Journey to the West Cultural Festival; Huai'an, 5th Grand Canal City Intangible Cultural Heritage Exhibition & 1st Jiangsu Huaihai Opera Art Exhibition and Performance Month; Yancheng, Holland Flower Lily Culture Month; Yangzhou, the 2022 International RV Camping Expo & Outdoor Travel Equipment Exhibition; Zhenjiang, Jinshan Culture and Arts & International Tourism Festival; Taizhou, "Taste of Taizhou" Food Tourism Season in Water City & Crab Town; and Suqian, the 6th "Millen-

nium Canal, Beautiful Suqian" National Photography Exhibition, etc.

World Tourism Day, an exclusive holiday for travelers and tourists, also falls in autumn. UN Secretary-General António Guterres expressed in his message for this year's World Tourism Day, that tourism is a powerful driver for sustainable development. It contributes to the education and empowerment of women and youth and advances the socioeconomic and cultural development of communities.

Cherish the holiday and autumn. The enthusiasm of tourists for "Charm of Jiangsu" is growing.

WELCOME TO Jiangsu

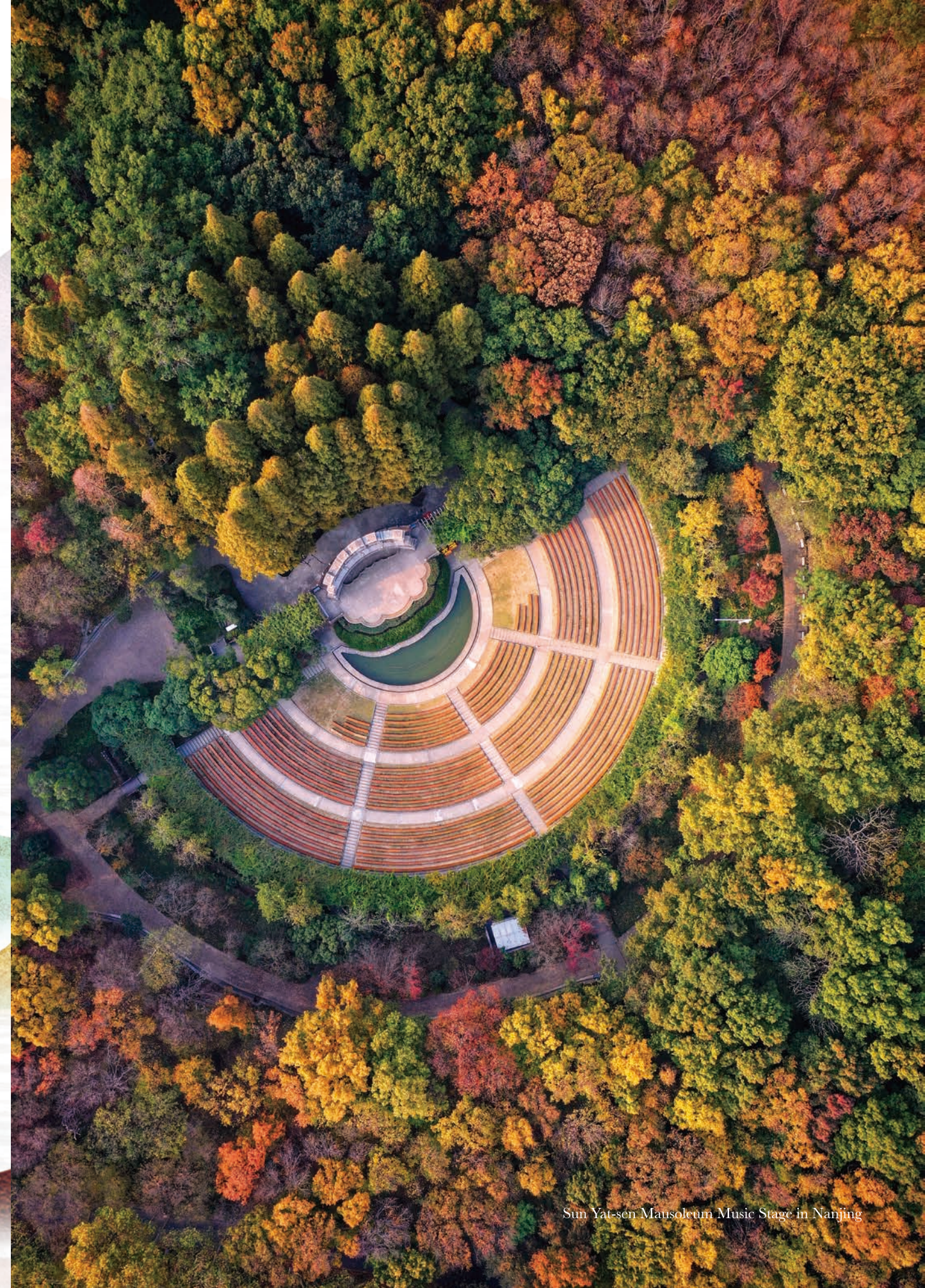
TRAVEL TIPS

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.



Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum Music Stage in Nanjing