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## FOREWORD

## Best Time in Jiangsu



Jiangnan is famous for its scenic views since a long time ago.  
It is love at first sight with the spectacular view of its ancient cities.



Jiangsu is a long-lost land of joy. It is a paradise on earth with its water village.

Jiangsu is a quaint beauty with historical significance during the Chu-Han era. Known for the Horse-training Terrace, the residence of the Overlord of Western Chu, the majestic Nanjing Foding Temple with an arch spreading over 200 meters in length at the Niushou Mountain, and Suzhou's largest classical garden, the Humble Administrator's Garden, which comprises multiple structures of traditional residences in the conventional Jiangnan. A walk through these ancient sites is like travelling back to a thousand years of time.

Ancient cities like Yangzhou, Zhenjiang, Huai'an, and others in the Jiangsu Province are considered prosperous places in Chinese history. They are also the heart of Huaiyang Cuisine, one of four renowned cuisines in China. The Qing Dynasty emperors, Kangxi and Qianlong, have high regards for the Huaiyang Cuisine, naming it the most delicious cuisine on Earth. Touted as the "mother of all operas", Kunqu Opera originated from Kunshan in Suzhou. Since hundreds of years ago, people love sipping Ah Po tea and having snacks while listening to the opera, amidst the serenity of the garden. Such a trend has evolved into a signature lifestyle in southern Jiangsu. Wuxi's Yantouzhu (Turtle Head Park) is the most beautiful corner of Taihu Lake, primed for its hills and waters where its uniquely scenic views of each of the four seasons attracted visits from poets and scholars in the past and now local and foreign tourists too. See flowers bloom amidst the thick mist in Yangzhou during the lunar month of March. Visit Huai'an for its lotus blooms at Jinhu Lake. Enjoy the cool autumn ambience in Nanjing Qixia Mountain. Yancheng is the best tour destination in winter to witness the red-crowned crane dancing in the sky - a mesmerizing romantic view set against the white backdrops of snow. Any season is perfect to enjoy in Jiangsu due to its flowers blooming in spring, sunny weather during the summer, red maple leaves in autumn, and snow falling in winter.



Zhenjiang Jinshan Temple

## WHERE IS JIANGSU

Enjoy a peace of mind with a change in lifestyle and pace. Jiangsu is full of tourism resources and numerous historical sites. Majority of the tourism spots are located along the Yangtze River and the Grand Canal. Taihu and its seashores form a unique tourist destination based on its mountainous range and waters, providing the ambience of a peaceful, cozy and comfortable environment. Jiangsu has more than 10 ancient sites listed under the World Heritage List. The ancient buildings in Jiangnan are recollections of history at any given time.



**Xuzhou** is the birthplace of the Han Dynasty with over 6,000 years of civilization history and 2,600 years of history in the making of the city. It is a place which consists of a large number of cultural heritage, historical sites and profound historical value.



**Suqian**, touted as "the capital of Chinese Liquor", produces two of the famous types of liquor in China, namely Yanghe and Shuanggou. It is also the birthplace of the Western Chu Overlord, Xiang Yu, thus referred to as the "Heroic Capital".



Located at the intersection of Yangtze River and Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, **Yangzhou** is a historical cultural city with 2,500 years of history. It is touted as the "First City of China's Canal", also named as the Moon City of China. Yangzhou spearheaded the application for the Grand Canal to be listed as a World Heritage. A total of six canals and 10 historical remains have since been listed as World Heritage Sites.

**Huai'an** is located in the intersection of ancient Huaihe River and the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, and it has the fourth largest freshwater lake in China-Hongzehu Lake-in the territory. The waterway of Huai'an in the Grand Canal is listed in the World Heritage Site. This city is the hometown of the Premier Zhou Enlai.



**Nanjing**, also known as Jinling, has a history dated more than 2,500 years ago and has accumulated 1,800 years of it as a capital city. For most of its history, Nanjing has been the political administration and cultural centre of southern China. It has been the capital for ten dynasties such as Wu, and Eastern Jin.

**Zhenjiang**, the land of abundance produce in Jiangnan, is home to many places of interests such as, Sanshan, Maoshan, Xijindu, and Nanshan. With the Yangtze River and the Grand Canal intersecting here, it is also called "The Best Landscape under Heaven".



**Changzhou** is one of the origins of Yangtze civilization and the Wu Dynasty culture. Situated in the heart of Jiangnan and the Yangtze River Delta, it is the basis for the modern manufacturing industry. Together with Suzhou and Wuxi, the three constitutes the metropolitans of Suzhou-Wuxi-Changzhou.



With its flat terrain and richness in raw materials, **Yangcheng** earns the name "A Land of Abundance." It is where Jiangsu's longest coastal line, largest beach, and the national nature reserves for two precious species: the elk and red-crowned crane, reside.



In the past, **Taizhou** is a famous historical and cultural city of China, with more than 2,100 years of history. Notable talents in the cultural and arts history like Wang Gen, Shi Nai'an, Zheng Banqiao, and Mei Lanfang all originated from Taizhou.



**Nantong** is one of the first 14 coastal cities in China opened to the outside world. With seven "firsts" to its name, including first teacher's academy, and first private museum, amongst others, it's no wonder it's called the First City of Modern China.



**Suzhou** has four distinct seasons and plenty of rainfall. It produces silkworm, mulberry, Taihu Whitebait, Yangcheng hairy crabs, and many more. Suzhou Gardens are the most well-known private gardens in China and have been added to the World Heritage Site.



**Wuxi**, with Yangtze River on its north and Taihu on its south, lies in the plains of the Yangtze River Delta and is called the "Pearl of Taihu". Wuxi has breath-taking views and is rich in cultural heritage. It is the root of the Wu-Culture and the birth place of 3,000 years of civilization history.



**Lianyungang** is a city where mountains, sea, harbours and other cities meet. It is the meeting point of the "One Belt, One Road" initiative, and also where famous classical novels originate like *Journey to the West*, and *Jing Hua Yuan (Flowers in the Mirror)*.

Yancheng Red-crowned Crane, Wetland Eco-tourism Area



Largest city by size in Jiangsu Province, named after salt fields

# YANCHENG



KEY WORD

Red-crowned Crane, Elk, Sea Salt, Shi Nai'an

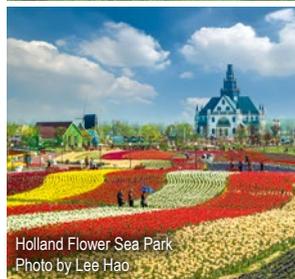
**The city surrounded by salt** Yancheng gained its name due to the salt-boiling farm and river since 119 BC. Every street name and area here consist of the Chinese character 'salt' (pinyin: yan). For example: Yandu Park and Yandu Area. With more than 2,000 years in the history of sea salt boiling to its name, various salt related buildings or agencies including the District office of Salt-Agency, Salt Ancestral Hall, Salt Merchant Association, Salt Museum of China, and many more are established.

**Habitat for the red-crowned crane and Elk** Yancheng has a nice coastline, having the largest beach with the widest coverage of sea, which attracts the red-crowned crane and elk to reside here. Every year during winter, more than 1,200 red-crowned cranes gathered in Yancheng, making it the largest crane gathering ground during winter in the world. It is also an important breeding ground for the endangered species – the Black-billed Gull.

**Inspiration for "Water Margin"** Shi Nai'an, The author of *Water Margin*, followed Zhang Shicheng, who was the leader of the peasant revolts towards the end of the Yuan Dynasty. He lived in Baijuchang, Yancheng for a while. Some scholars believed that the 108 heroes of Mount Liangshan are in fact the mimicry of generals in the revolt army. Thus, it is highly possible that this is the source of inspiration for the life in Mount Liangshan as told in the *Water Margin*.



Dazong Lake



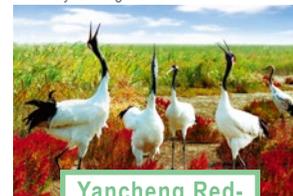
Holland Flower Sea Park  
Photo by Lee Hao



Water Margin Museum

## Tourist Attractions in Yancheng

Photo by Ji Hong Jun



Yancheng Red-crowned Crane

Yancheng Red-crowned Crane area has many rivers and swamp wetlands with abundance in biological resources in their primitive form. More than 800 birds of the red-crowned cranes fly here each year to evade winter. There are also many other protected species that can be found here, such as the river deer, and it is an important shelter for rare migrating birds.

add\_Xinyang Gang, Huang Jian Zhen, Tinghu District, Yancheng  
web\_www.yczrbhq.com

Photo by Yang Guo Mei



Zhong Hua Elk Park

The world's first wild elk park provides the largest coverage and is home to the most varieties of elk. There are also some 2,000 species of flora and fauna. Sight-seeing vehicle service is available and the recommended time to visit are in May and June, for these are the season of the elks fighting for their crown. Self-driving is the suggested mode of transportation.

add\_Dafeng District, Yancheng



Shi Nai'an Memorial Hall

There is a memorial hall which was designed according to the Shi Ancestral Hall from the Qing Dynasty. More than 100 versions of the classical tale *Water Margin* are kept here, as well as the precious relics of the Genealogy Book of Shi Clan. The memorial hall is surrounded by water and reeds which fits the illustrations described in the life of Mount Liangshan in *Water Margin*.

add\_Bei Street, Baiju Zhen, Da Feng District, Yancheng

## Cuisine



Dongtai Fish Noodle Soup

One of the Jiangsu cuisines, the main ingredients are the noodles and thick soup base which drops like beads and yet refreshing in taste. Besides tasting good, it also caters for one's wellness by warming the stomach and nourishing one's spleen as well as acting as a tonic to the digestive system. As wild carp, eel bones, pork bones and other raw materials are used to boil the soup, it is high in protein, rich in calcium and amino acids, yet low in fat.

Recommendation: Dongtai Leida Hotel (东台磊达宾馆), Dongtai Guest House (东台迎宾馆), Dongtai Snacks Shop (东台市街头小吃店)



Jianhu Taro Ball Soup

Jianhu Taro Ball soup has been around for more than a hundred years. Using taro powder of excellent grade as the main ingredient, sugar, mashed dates, sesame powder, and lard or vegetarian oil are added and mixed in, which is then wrapped in pastes made from osmanthus, and then boiled in water till it's cooked. The pellet-shaped light purple balls are soft, plump, and sweet without greasiness with the fragrance of the osmanthus. It is a famous treat among locals and foreigners.

Recommendation: various eateries in Leisure Food Street at Dongjin Road (东进路休闲美食文化街各餐厅)

### INFO

**Other attractions:** Holland Flower Blooms, Water Street, Sea Salt Museum, Grand Lake, Lake Jinsha, European-style Flower Street, Huanghai Forest Park, Xixi Tourism and Cultural Scenic Area, and Dream Maze.

**Best season for tour:** Mar – Oct

**Recommendation:** 3 - 4 days

**Transportation:** Nanyang International Airport in Yancheng offers flights to Beijing, Guangzhou, Taipei, South Korea and many more. The airport is 8.3 km away from the city centre. It is connected by several expressways including Ning-yan, Lian-yan, Huai-yan, and Yan-tong. A railway service named XinChang operates passenger and cargo transportations nationwide. Yancheng is working on speeding up the construction of its "5+1" high-speed rail system.

### HOTEL

**Yidu Jinling Grand Hotel**  
add\_603 Century Ave, Yancheng  
\$ 432RMB++/night  
web\_061.jinlinghotels.com

**Peninsula Spring International Hotel**  
add\_9 Lakeshore Road, Dafeng Port Area, Dafeng, Yancheng  
\$ 578RMB++/night  
web\_www.dfpsihotel.com



# FOUR SEASONS IN JIANGSU

Yangzhou Slender West Lake



Changzhou Nanshan Bamboo



Suqian Luoma Lake



Nanjing Ziqinghu Ecology Tourism Hot Spring Holiday Resort



Taizhou Qianduo Rapeseed Flowers



Lianyungang Liandao Island



Nanjing Qixia Mountain



Suzhou Xiangxuehai

## March-May Spring

In March, cherry blossoms in Jiangsu. April is the best period to view the Canola flower. Rhododendron blooms in May. Flowers and natural seasons are intertwined with each other, and they are in harmony with the unique cultural scene in Jiangsu.



### ① Yangzhou Slender West Lake

In March, flowers are blooming in Yangzhou gardens. The city is full of green and red in colours. The beauty of the Slender West Lake lies in the twists and turns. The landscapes architecture is quaint and the lake cruises by boat make it poetic and picturesque.



### ② Canola Flower Harvest in Qianduo, Xinghua City of Taizhou

Every year from March to April, Taizhou will hold the Xinghua Qianduo canola flower festival. In addition to taking a boat ride through the complicated waterways, you can also take a glider to view the sea of canola flowers from the air.



### ③ Yancheng Dafeng Holland flowers

The national AAAA-level tourist attraction, centered on the three major industrial layouts of "tourism, wedding photography, and well-being," has made every effort to build China's largest tulip farm in China.

**Add:** 1, Jiankang Road, Xinfeng Town, Dafeng District

**Wechat:** 大丰荷兰花海dfh1hh

## June-August Summer

Visit Jiangsu during the hot summer by holidaying at Jiangsu seashores, enjoying the water theme park, picking fresh fruits, and visiting the lotus exhibition at the Humble Administrator's Garden's Lotus Exhibition. Visit the ecological paradise of the wetland. The mountain and water are cool in the hot summer.



### ① Changzhou Nanshan bamboo

The Nanshan Mountains and the wild countryside are quiet and serene. Climb along the stream in the mountain and sink in with the sea of bamboo. Visit Nanshan Bamboo Forest in the summer and try the Wu Rice with the locals.

### Liyang Tea Festival

**Date:** Every two years in April

**Venue:** Tianmu Lake Landscape Garden, Nanshan Bamboo



### ② Liandao Island Bay Seashore in Lianyungang

The Liandao Island seashore combines view of the mountains, sea, forest, stone, beach and cultural landscapes. It is a summer resort for vacation where visitors are swimming in the sea at Lianyungang and enjoying seafood. It is also a good place to experience aquatic entertainment. There is no cold winter and no summer heat. There are as many as 90 days in a year to enjoy the seawater.

## September-November Autumn

Visit the farms in the outskirts of Jiangsu to enjoy the weather in autumn, including flowers, hiking, seafood and hot spring.



### ① Luoma Lake in Suqian

The Luoma Lake is huge. It is the one of the top fresh water lakes in the Jiangsu province with clear water and shallow banks. Many types of fishes are found in the lake, with silverfish as the most prestigious.



### ② Qixia Mountain in Nanjing

Qixia Mountain is also known as the photo-taking mountain. The red leaves are famous. It is one of China's four major spots to view the maple trees. The Red Maple Festival is held from October to December every year and lasts for about 50 days. It is a spectacular view of the mountains covered with maples. There are also the Qixia Temple, stupa and other monuments in the mountains.



### ③ Huanghai National Forest Park in Dongtai, Yancheng

The national forest park offers ecology scenic views. At present, the park has built health trails, boardwalks, and also a tourist reception centre. The park offers facilities in package such as the bamboo park, and swipe code to know the trees and others.

**Add:** Huanghai Forest Park Scenic Area, Dongtai Coastal Economic Development Zone (National Highway 228) **Wechat:** 黄海森林公园

## December-February Winter

At the beginning of the year, Jiangsu, which is located at the downstream of the Jianghuai region, offers a different view. On the top of the hill, cedars, flowers and trees are covered with frost and snow. It is a breath-taking scenery with pear flowers blooming.



### ① Ziqinghu Hot Spring in Nanjing

Hot Springs in Tangshan have their own respective features. The most unique one is Ziqinghu Hot Spring, which is famous for its "forest hot spring". The natural hot spring pools are located outdoors, where running river, small bridges, waterfalls, and flowers are. The hot spring offers exclusive privacy.



### ② Xiangxuehai in Suzhou

Xiangxuehai is the centre of China's plum culture and also one of the country's four major spots to view plum blossoms. It is known as "Xiangxue's Plum Blossom". In February, Xiangxuehai offers a spectacular view of the plums blossoming amidst the sea of plums with fragrance. Within the scenic spot, there are the Plum Blossom Pavilion, Qianlong Royal Poetry Monument, and other attractions. In addition to viewing plum blossoms, the "Plum Blossom Festival" each year has stone carvings by the cliff, and uniquely shaped plum blossom kiosks.