



南京旅遊
NANJING CHINA

A Historical Timeline

Pre-History	As far back as 500,000 years ago, prehistoric communities were forming in the caves outside of what is now Nanjing. This was evidenced by the discovery of the skull of “Nanjing Ape-Man” in 1993.
3500 – 771 B.C. <i>The Beiyinyang, The Liangzhu, The Shang and The Zhou Dynasties</i>	Advanced agricultural tools and ceramic wares were developed in Nanjing during this period. Jade was of importance to the Liangzhu culture and traditionally carved into ceremonial pieces.
770 B.C. – 220 A.D. <i>The Spring and Autumn Period, The Warring States Period, The Qin and The Han Dynasties</i>	While there is little written history from these periods, archeological findings indicate that the area that is now Nanjing became a center for metalwork during the Spring and Autumn Period but suffered along with the rest of the country during the Warring States Period when the Chinese states fought for control of the empire.
220 – 280 A.D. <i>The Three Kingdoms (The Wei, Shu and Wu Dynasties)</i>	<p>Nanjing’s importance increased drastically during the Three Kingdoms period when Sun Quan named himself king of the Eastern Wu dynasty and moved his court to the city. Nanjing prospered during Sun Quan’s three decade reign, partially because of an increase in foreign trade.</p> <p>Two noteworthy sites that remain from this period are Stone City, the first manifestation of the Nanjing Wall, and Sun Quan’s tomb on a section of Purple Mountain known as Plum Hill.</p>
265 – 420 A.D. <i>The Jin</i>	<p>Under Jin rule, Nanjing continued to grow in wealth, influence, and population. The city had more than one million inhabitants at its height as the Eastern Jin capital, and the textile, ceramics, and metalworking industries expanded further.</p> <p>Important sites that can be visited today include the Wang-Xie Residence, which was home to the government minister Wang Dao who came from a family prominent in the arts, and later minister Xie-An who came from a family known for its military achievements. The house was also immortalized by the Tang poet Liu Yuxi in a piece lamenting the loss of aristocracy and refinement.</p> <p>During this time, several thousand monks were working to spread Buddhism throughout China. The Jiming Si (Cock-crow Temple) was constructed early in the Jin Dynasty and became the most important temple in the area during the Southern Dynasties period that followed.</p>

<p>420 – 588 A.D. <i>The Southern Dynasties</i> <i>(The Liu Song, Southern Qi, Liang and Chen)</i></p>	<p>The Southern Dynasties period was a complex time in Chinese history where four short-lived kingdoms - the Liu Song, Southern Qi, Liang and Chen – held control consecutively. Nanjing served as capital during the entirety of the Liu Song, Southern Qi, and Chen dynasties and for several years during the Liang Dynasty.</p> <p>Political strife and corruption led to the fall of the first three dynasties, but violence from nomadic tribes in northern China continued to drive skilled craftsmen and artists south. By the mid-6th century, Nanjing was the country’s most culturally and economically advanced city.</p> <p>Several significant buildings were constructed during this time, including the Linggu Temple and Beamless Hall, which were part of a large complex originally built at the northeast foot of Purple Mountain. Other interesting sites erected during The Southern Dynasties include the Rain Flower Pavilion, a former Buddhist temple that honors the multi-colored stones found throughout the area, and Qixia Temple, one of China’s most important monasteries.</p>
<p>581 – 907 <i>The Sui and The Tang</i></p>	<p>Prosperity came to a halt during the Sui Dynasty. Fearing that Nanjing’s intelligent inhabitants would resist his rule, the emperor Wendi razed the city, slaughtered its inhabitants, and turned the area to farmland. Gradually, Nanjing recovered under the subsequent Tang Dynasty and thrived as an economic center for several centuries.</p> <p>Though few sites remain from this period, artifacts uncovered include a set of brightly painted clay warriors; dishes and ornaments embossed with gold, mother-of-pearl and rhino skin; and an imperial scroll annotated by three famous Tang calligraphers.</p>
<p>907 – 979 <i>The Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms (Dynasties - The Later Liang, Later Tang, Later Jin, Later Han, Later Zhou; Kingdoms – Wu, Wuyue, Min, Chu, Southern Han, Former Shu, Later Shu, Jingnan, Southern Han, Northern Han)</i></p>	<p>Upon the disintegration of the Tang Dynasty, China entered a period of regionalization. Nanjing was rebuilt as the capital of the local dynasty, the Southern Tang. During this time, the city wall was reconstructed, as well as the tombs of the first two Southern Tang emperors which can be found outside of the city on Zutang Mountain.</p>
<p>960 – 1279 <i>The Song</i></p>	<p>Nanjing briefly served as the seat of the empire for 12 years under the Song, beginning in 1126. The textile industry flourished during this period.</p> <p>Among the most interesting sites from the Song Dynasty are the Imperial Examination Hall, where scholars were tested on their knowledge of Confucian thought, and Confucius Temple, one of the city’s central landmarks.</p>

<p>206 – 1644 <i>The Yuan and Ming</i></p>	<p>After the Southern Song moved their capital to Hangzhou, Nanjing’s political and economic status gradually declined. Not much changed under the Yuan. However, the Ming Dynasty was an important time in Nanjing’s history. The city grew and prospered as the capital of the entire empire for the first time in history – a status it held for 52 years before the capital moved to Beijing.</p> <p>Many sites constructed under the Ming can be visited today including the expansive Xiaoling Tomb Complex at the southern foot of Purple Mountain; the Ming Palace Ruins in what now is Wuchaomen Park; and the original Bao’en Pagoda, which was considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Medieval World. Zhonghuamen, the southern entrance to the city, and the largest of the thirteen gates in the city wall was begun by the Yuan and expanded, improved and completed by the Ming. Noteworthy Ming artifacts include fine porcelain, lacquer ware, gold accessories, and jade items.</p>
<p>1644 – 1911 <i>The Qing</i></p>	<p>The Ming Dynasty ended at the hands of a rebel warlord in the spring of 1644. The Qing took power and appointed Nanjing the governmental seat for the viceroyalty of Liangjiang. To maintain peace, the Qing built walls so their people could live separately from the Han Chinese they had conquered.</p> <p>In the 1840s, the British sailed up the Yangtze determined to force the Chinese to continue the opium trade, an action that led to many battles and, ultimately, the signing of the Treaty of Nanjing which forced the Qing to open a number of ports, pay large indemnities and cede ownership of Hong Kong to Great Britain.</p> <p>Important sites from this period include the residential complex now known as the Gan Xi Residence Museum. The famous Qing scholar who lived there with his family referred to it as the “Ninety-Nine-and-a-Half-Rooms Hall” in response to the emperor’s decree that no family residence have more than 100 rooms. The Jinghai Temple, now the Nanjing Treaty History Museum, and the Zhanyuan Imperial Palace, now known as the Taiping Rebellion Museum, were also constructed under the Qing.</p>
<p>1911 – 1949 <i>The Republic of China and The Warlords</i></p>	<p>Nanjing was taken over by Nationalist troops in December of 1911. The population began to grow wealthier as the economy shifted away from manufacturing and agriculture to food, service and entertainment. Dr. Sun Yat-sen, known as the Father of Modern China, was elected as Provisional President, establishing the seat of the government in Nanjing. His ideology, "The Three Principles of the People," focused on nationalism, democracy, and socialism, and he dreamed of a unified China. This dream was not realized as he withdrew from office upon the resignation of the last Qin emperor just three months after taking office, beginning an era where various armed groups fought for the right to lead the country, with Dr. Sun Yat-sen also briefly assuming the presidency several times.</p>

	<p>After Dr. Sun Yat-sen’s death in 1925, Chiang Kai-shek assumed complete control over the nationalist movement, rebuilding the country’s urban infrastructure, an act that Mao Zedong used to his advantage when building his army in rural northwestern China which remained poor and underserved.</p> <p>As Chiang Kai-shek focused on eliminating Mao’s forces, the Japanese continued to encroach on Chinese territory. Throughout the 1930s, Nanjing was the site of many protests against Tokyo’s demands for more land. In December 1936, Chiang Kai-shek was captured by his own generals in Xi’an. He promised to form a unified government with the Communists and other groups, but the Japanese invasion came first. The government fled, followed by the army, and within six weeks, more than 300,000 residents perished in the Nanjing Massacre. A large portion of the city was burned to the ground.</p> <p>Following World War II, Nanjing was reinstated as the nation’s capital from 1945 to 1949. After a brief attempt at reconciliation, Communist and Nationalist forces spent four years at war. The government was weakened by inflation and infighting, wrecking the economy and forcing approximately 20,000 students to beg in the streets of Nanjing. They turned their anger toward the government, and Chiang Kai-shek resigned in January 1949, fleeing to Taiwan. The city surrendered to Communist forces three months later.</p>
<p>1949 – Present <i>The People’s Republic of China</i></p>	<p>Chairman Mao established The People’s Republic of China on October 1, 1949, moving the capital to its present location in Beijing. Because the government chose to flee Nanjing rather than fight, the city was spared total destruction. However, living conditions were dire for several years following the establishment of the PRC. Nanjing suffered greatly from the famine that followed the Great Leap Forward (1958 – 1961), and took another hit during the Cultural Revolution when many historical relics were destroyed and intellectuals punished.</p> <p>Following these difficulties, Nanjing has prospered over the past few decades by focusing on its rich arts and culture and investing heavily in the development of the technology and tourism sectors.</p>

For more information on Nanjing, please visit www.GoToNanjing.com.

**Please Note: Historical records list more than 40 names for Nanjing throughout history including Jinling, Moling, Jianye, Jiankang, Jiangning, Yingtian, and Tianjing.

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