



Nanjing Fact Sheet

- Location:** Nanjing, the capital of China's Jiangsu province, is located in the Yangtze River Delta area, in the center of eastern China, encompassing approximately 2,548 square miles. The Yangtze River flows past the west and northern sides of Nanjing, while the Ningzheng Ridge surrounds the northern, eastern, and southern sides of the city. The Purple Mountain or Zijin Shan is located on the eastern side of Nanjing. The city is 190 miles northwest of Shanghai, and 750 miles southeast of Beijing. Nanjing borders Yangzhou to the northeast, Zhenjiang to the east and Changzhou to the southeast. On its western boundary is Anhui province.
- Population:** Approximately 8.2 million (as of January 2016)
- Climate:** Nanjing has a subtropical climate with four distinct seasons. Spring (March – May) is warm and humid, followed by the rainy season in June and July. Autumn is short (October – November), but brings pleasant weather that is cool and dry. Nanjing is cold in winter (December – February) with occasional snow. The average annual temperature is 61°F.
- Getting To Nanjing:** Nanjing is accessible by Nanjing Lukou International Airport, located approximately 40 miles from the city center. China Eastern Airlines offers direct service from LAX, and a number of other airlines including United, Delta, and Qantas provide connecting service from other major airports. Three train stations - Nanjing Railway Station, Nanjing South Railway Station and Nanjing West Railway Station - connect Nanjing to all of China's major cities. Travelers can reach Nanjing from Shanghai in approximately 90 minutes by bullet train or three hours by car. Beijing is three and a half hours away via bullet train.
- Traveling within Nanjing:** Two subway lines with clean, modern trains operate more than 50 stations throughout Nanjing, priced at less than US\$1 per ride. It is generally easy to find a taxi downtown, but it is advisable to avoid rush hour traffic (6:30AM–8AM; 5PM-7PM). Unlike taxis in U.S. cities, drivers available for hire light their taxi lamps red, while green means the taxi is not available.
- Local Currency:** Chinese Yuan (RMB for short). Major U.S. credit cards are accepted at hotels, large stores, and hotels. It is recommended to carry cash for local shops.
- Visas:** A valid U.S. passport and a Chinese visa is required for travelers visiting from the United States and Canada.

Time Zone:	China Standard Time (UTC+8:00)
Language:	Spoken: Nanjing dialect or Nanjing Mandarin Written: Mandarin Chinese
History:	Nanjing, one of China’s most significant cities, is recognized as one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China along with Beijing, Xi’an, and Luoyang. Nanjing’s history begins in ancient times, as long ago as 500,000 years, as evidenced by the excavation of a pre-historical skull in a cave on the outskirts of the city. Due to its strategic location along the Yangtze River and at the halfway mark on China’s coastline, Nanjing served as the capital of 10 Chinese dynasties and regimes over 1,800 years, notably the Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1421) and The Republic of China (1927 - 1937 and 1945 – 1949). <i>For a comprehensive timeline of Nanjing’s history, please see the history fact sheet.</i>
Culture:	Nanjing is the cultural and educational hub of China. It is home to 59 universities and top institutions including the Nanjing Museum and the Nanjing Library. The contemporary arts scene is widely respected, as are its distinctive folk arts such as Nanjing Cloud Brocade. Overall, life in Nanjing is much slower and more relaxed than in larger cities such as Beijing or Shanghai. Parks can be found across the city where locals enjoy leisurely strolling and picnicking, including the popular Xuanwu Lake.
Cuisine:	Food in Nanjing is an offshoot of Huaiyang Cuisine, one of the four traditional Chinese cuisines. Dishes focus on seasonality and emphasize the balance of taste with color. Nanjing is known for its duck and is the birthplace of Peking Duck. Duck Blood Soup with fried tofu and vermicelli is a local staple, as is the popular Nanjing Salted Duck. Because of the city’s proximity to the water, many dishes also incorporate river fish, shrimp and other crustaceans. Tangbao (soup buns), Pidu Noodles and Hairy Crab are other specialties commonly served up in Nanjing.
Accommodations:	More than 100 hotels are spread across Nanjing, offering visitors a wide variety options from budget to luxury with a combination of local and international brands such as Fairmont, Shangri-La, Hilton, Sofitel, Renaissance, and Westin.
Major Attractions:	History buffs can visit an array of sites that tell the story of Nanjing’s role throughout time – from the Ming Xiaoling Mausoleum at the foot of Purple Mountain to the Presidential Palace of the Republic of China. At Niushoushan Cultural Park, the cultural treasures of Niushou Mountain – a centuries-old sacred Buddhist site containing historic monasteries, pagodas, and relics of the Ming Dynasty – are on display. <i>For comprehensive details on top attractions, please see the top attractions fact sheet.</i>

Nightlife:

Nanjing has plenty of stylish dining and nightlife options centered around the Confucius Temple area and on the banks of the Qinhuai River. The 1912 Blocks near the Presidential Palace also offer a variety of bars, pubs, tea houses, and nightclubs.

Special Events & Festivals:

Nanjing is home to a number of noteworthy festivals such as the International Plum Blossom Festival, which attracts thousands of visitors each spring; The Lantern Festival which lights up the Confucius Temple area on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month (February or March); The Dragon Boat Festival in June; and the Hairy Crab Festival held in Gaochun each September.

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

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