



China's Ancient Southern Capital Blossoms in the Spring

Stop and smell the plum blossoms, take in the country's largest lantern festival, and enjoy colorful landscapes in Nanjing, China

New York, NY (January 4, 2017) – Nothing brightens the doldrums of winter quite like daydreaming about the best places to experience the emergence of spring. China's ancient capital city of Nanjing is the perfect antidote for the cold weather blues, with plenty of vibrant events on tap to celebrate the arrival of spring this year.

Qinhuai International Lantern Festival January 28 to February 14

Nanjing is home to China's largest lantern festival, which takes place at the end of the Chinese New Year and is commemorated with a variety of folk customs. The Confucius Temple area is lit up by countless red lanterns in neighboring streets, stores, and homes. The origin of Qinhuai International Lantern Festival can be traced to the early days of the Southern Dynasties when lantern fairs were held in the city of Nanjing to pray for good weather for the crops, happy families, and a peaceful world.

Plum Blossom Festival February 17 to March 17

The colorful plum blossom is the official flower of Nanjing, and the city's Plum Blossom Festival is China's answer to Japan's famed Cherry Blossom Festival. Plum blossoms begin to bloom toward the end of February, adding life and color to the bare trees and a fragrant aroma in the air. In Chinese culture, plum blossoms symbolize rebirth and growth, and nowhere is this more evident than on **Purple Mountain** where more than 35,000 plum trees in 120 varieties are on display.

Now in its 21st year, the Plum Blossom Festival at Purple Mountain features entertainment such as traditional Chinese music and dance performances. While attending the festival, visitors can explore the Zhongshan Plum Bonsai Garden, which is part nursery and part research center. Here, visitors can admire the 400-year-old tree known as the King of Plum Blossoms, the oldest plum blossom tree in China. Festival goers can also visit 15 important historical sites and cultural relics found in the surrounding park, including the Xiaoling Tomb of the Ming Dynasty, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Mausoleum.

Weeping Willows, Rapeseed, and Scarlet Begonias Throughout the spring months

Travelers seeking other beautiful spring scenes should be sure to visit **Xuanwu Lake** located just steps from the City Wall in the heart of Nanjing. Those looking to unwind and relax can spend hours in the breathtaking lakeside gardens that overflow with weeping willows, arched bridges, paddle boats, an abundance of stunning flowers, and cherry blossoms.

Twenty-five miles east of Nanjing lies **Yaxi**, China's first certified "slow city." Yaxi promotes a laid back lifestyle inspired by the slow food movement that centers on improving the quality of life of residents by slowing down the overall pace. In March and April, the rolling farmlands in Yaxi are blanketed in bright yellow rapeseed, creating a lively natural canvas. Farmers also create dramatic designs in the fields that can be viewed from the air.

Beginning in March, Nanjing's **Mochouhu Park** becomes flooded with tiny pink begonias that bring magnificent color to the trees and fill the air with a delightful fragrance. The park is a colorful place for an Instagram-worthy photo opp.

For additional information on all of Nanjing's festivals and events, visit <http://www.gotonanjing.com/what-to-do/attractions>

High resolution images can be downloaded [here](#).

About Nanjing

Nanjing is the capital of Jiangsu province in eastern China, situated in the Yangtze River Delta area 190 miles northwest of Shanghai. Recognized as one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China, Nanjing has served as the capital city of 10 Chinese dynasties and regimes for a total of more than 1,800 years. A sophisticated metropolis and a modern center of history, education, and culture, Nanjing is home to some of the country's most significant historical attractions such as the Xiaoling Tomb of the Ming Dynasty, Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Mausoleum, The Presidential Palace, and a City Wall, which dates back more than 600 years. Popular attractions also include China's oldest public library and one of the country's first museums, the Nanjing Museum.

Nanjing is accessible by Nanjing Lukou International Airport (NKG) with daily flights from North America. Three train stations – Nanjing Railway Station, Nanjing South Railway Station, and Nanjing West Railway Station – connect Nanjing to all of China's major cities, including Beijing, which is a 3.5-hour ride via bullet train. Travelers coming from Shanghai can reach Nanjing in approximately 90 minutes by bullet train or three hours by car.

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

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