



Chinese Crafters Keep Ancient Art Forms Alive in Nanjing

Visitors can learn about cloud brocade, paper-cut, lantern making, and more

New York, NY (April 10, 2017) – [Nanjing, China](#), is a modern, cosmopolitan city steeped in ancient history. Many centuries-old traditions in this great ancient capital, such as a dedication to expertly fashioned handicrafts, originated thousands of years ago but are being kept alive today by a thriving community of working artisans. Curious visitors seeking to explore the city's arts and crafts culture, and pick up some one-of-a-kind souvenirs along the way, should be sure to include the following sites on their itineraries:

Hand-powered Looms at the Nanjing Cloud Brocade Museum

Dating back almost 1,600 years, Nanjing cloud brocade arose from one of the most exquisite and sophisticated weaving methods in Chinese history and is recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Incorporating precious materials such as silk, gold, silver thread and even peacock feathers, the textile was once reserved exclusively for the emperor's dragon robes. In the Nanjing Cloud Brocade Museum, visitors can watch expert craftsmen weave the brocade at a workshop, see examples of how the art form has changed throughout history, and select a piece of Nanjing brocade to take home at the curated gift shop.

Location: No.240, Chating Street (East), Jianye District
Hours: 8:30AM-5PM daily
Admission: Free

Chinese Paper-Cut at the Nanjing Folk Museum

Housed in Nanjing's largest and best preserved Ming-era private mansion, exhibits at the Nanjing Folk Museum focus on the city's traditional culture and handicrafts throughout history. Chinese paper-cut artwork is one of the museum's highlights. Designated as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, Chinese paper-cut portrays themes of daily life in delicate and intricate designs made with just scissors or an engraving knife. This meticulous craft is practiced by various ethnic groups throughout China, but Nanjing's paper cut artwork is known for its curves and complicated lines. Originally used as hair ornaments for women, today paper-cut creations are used as home decorations. Visitors interested in learning more can watch professional craftsmen give demonstrations on how paper cut is made or take part in workshops and classes to learn the techniques.

Location: No. 15, 17 & 19, South Zhongshan Road
Hours: 9AM – 5PM daily
Admission: CNY 20 (USD \$3.20)

Handmade Lanterns at Confucius Temple Scenic Area

Nanjing is home to China's largest lantern festival, the Qinhuai International Lantern Festival, which takes place in late winter at the end of the Chinese New Year. During the festivities, the Confucius Temple Scenic Area is lit by countless red lanterns in neighboring streets, stores, and homes. The origin of the 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. Visitors traveling to Nanjing outside of the lantern festival can relish in the light by taking home a souvenir lantern sold year round in the markets and shops in the Confucius Temple Scenic Area.

Location: Gongyuan Street, Qinhuai
Hours: 8:30AM–10PM daily
Admission: Free
Website: <http://en.njfm.net/language/english/about.asp>

For additional information on all there is to do in Nanjing, visit www.GoToNanjing.com.

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, visit www.GoToNanjing.com.

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