



南京旅遊  
NANJING CHINA

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

### February/March

#### **Qinhuai International Lantern Festival**

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. Each year on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month, which falls in February or March, the Confucius Temple area is lit 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.

### Mid/Late February through March

#### **Nanjing International Plum Blossom Festival**

Launched in 1995, Nanjing's Plum Blossom Festival offers visitors the chance to stop and smell the flowers. China's answer to Japan's Cherry Blossom Festival, this month-long celebration showcases 35,000 plum blossom trees in 120 varieties -- including China's oldest -- scattered in a 250-acre park on Purple Mountain. Travelers who visit Nanjing during the latter part of the festival will also smell the fragrant scents of other trees in the gardens including peach blossom, pear blossom, cherry blossom and osmanthus.

### June

#### **Nanjing Dragon Boat Festival**

Dragon boat races are one of China's oldest traditions, dating back more than 2,500 years, and Nanjing is home to one of the most dynamic dragon boat festivals. Dragon boat racing is said to originate from the legend of people paddling out on boats to seek the body of patriotic poet Qu Yuan who drowned himself in the Miluo River. Races are held in Mochou Lake Park, where scores of spectators gather to watch teams compete. During the festivities, revelers also enjoy traditional festival food such as zongzi, which are rice dumplings flavored with nuts and wrapped inside bamboo leaves.

### September/October

#### **Hairy Crab Festival**

Hairy crabs are a delicacy in many Asian countries, known for their vibrant orange roe and rich, buttery texture. Chinese people believe that female hairy crabs taste best around mid-September, with males peaking in mid-October. During Hairy Crab Festival, the furry-clawed crustaceans are sold in stalls and by vendors throughout Gaochun County in southern Nanjing. The crabs are sourced from nearby Gucheng Lake, one of the country's top breeding grounds.

### October to March

#### **Tangshan Hot Spring Culture Tourism Season**

Dating back more than 1,000 years, Tangshan Hot Springs have been known a shengtang or "holy spring" since ancient times. The springs stay comfortably warm throughout the year and contain 30 rejuvenating minerals. During the annual Culture Tourism Season, visitors can combine the hot springs with a variety of other attractions including arts, culinary, and nature.

For more information on Nanjing, please visit [www.GoToNanjing.com](http://www.GoToNanjing.com).

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