

# Jiāngsū 江苏



Well-to-do Jiāngsū is the envy of its neighbours because of its lush, wet landscape and fertile topography. Because of its abundant agriculture, it's been dubbed the 'land of fish and rice' since ancient times. Situated on the east coast bordering the East China Sea, it's one of China's most densely populated provinces and also one of the most prosperous.

Jiāngsū owes its wealth to the ancient waterways of the Yangzi River and the Grand Canal, which served as the main systems of transport in early times. Jiāngsū made much of its fortune through silk and salt, which was panned off its low-lying marshy coast.

The Grand Canal slices its way from northern Jiāngsū into the lower reaches of the flourishing Yangzi River Delta. The canal, once navigable all the way from Hángzhōu in Zhèjiāng province to Běijīng, has largely silted up but still remains alive in southern Jiāngsū. Some of the province's most historical cities sit by the canal, including the vibrant commercial centres of Sūzhōu and Yángzhōu. The Yangzi River flows through the south of Jiāngsū, serving as an important trading route between the provincial capital of Nánjīng and Shànghǎi.

If you're interested in Chinese history, Jiāngsū has plenty to offer. Cosmopolitan Nánjīng has served as China's capital and has some fascinating museums and historical attractions to explore. Sūzhōu and Yángzhōu are famed for their elegant gardens and fine silk, while the ancient river town of Wúxī serves as a base for scenic Lake Tai. The well-preserved canal towns of Tónglǐ and Mùdú offer close-up views of a China fast disappearing.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Join in an operatic sing-a-long at the fascinating **Kunqu Opera Museum** (p306) in Sūzhōu
- Pay your respects to the 'father of modern China' at the impressive **Sun Yatsen Mausoleum** (p283) in Nánjīng
- Experience the magic of stone and water by taking a ferry ride on beautiful **Lake Tai** (p301)
- Discover the enchanting plants, bamboo and rockery of Sūzhōu's classical **gardens** (p303)
- Liberate your libido at the **Chinese Sex Culture Museum** (p311) in the charming canal town of Tónglǐ



■ POPULATION: 74 MILLION

■ [www.seu.edu.cn/EC/english/js.htm](http://www.seu.edu.cn/EC/english/js.htm)

## History

Jiangsū was a relative backwater until the Song dynasty (960–1279), when it emerged as an important commercial centre because of trading routes opened up by the Grand Canal (see p282). The province particularly flourished in the south, where the towns of Sūzhōu and Yángzhōu played an important role in silk production and began to develop a large mercantile class. While southern Jiangsū became synonymous for wealth and luxury, the northern parts of Jiangsū remained undeveloped and destitute.

Prosperity continued through the Ming and Qing dynasties and with the incursion of Westerners into China in the 1840s, southern Jiangsū opened up to Western influence.

During the Taiping Rebellion (1851–64), the Taipings established Nánjīng as their capital, calling it Tiānjīng or 'Heavenly Capital'.

Jiangsū was also to play a strong political role in the 20th century, when Nánjīng was established as the capital by the Nationalist Party until taken over by the communists in 1949, who moved the capital to Běijīng.

Today, because of its proximity to Shànghǎi, southern Jiangsū benefits from a fast-growing economy and rapid development, although northern Jiangsū still lags behind.

## Climate

Jiangsū is hot and humid in summer (May to August), yet has temperatures requiring coats in winter (from December to February, when

visibility can drop to zero because of fog). Rain or drizzle can be prevalent in winter, adding a misty touch to the land. The natural colours can be brilliant in spring (March and April). Heavy rains fall in spring and summer; autumn (September to November) is the driest time of year, and the best time to visit.

## Language

The Wu dialect (Wú yǔ) is the primary language spoken in Jiangsū and variations of it are heard throughout the province. Mandarin is also spoken, particularly in the northern regions closest to Shāndōng province.

## Getting There & Away

Jiangsū is well connected to all major cities in China. There are numerous flights daily from Nánjīng to points around the country, as well as frequent bus and train connections. In addition, there are ferries between Sūzhōu and Hángzhōu and from Nánjīng to Chóngqīng and Wùhàn.

## Getting Around

Jiangsū has a comprehensive bus system that allows travellers to get to most destinations within the province without difficulty. Taking the train is also an option and booking tickets has become quite easy as most hotels now operate their own travel agencies.

## NÁNJĪNG 南京

☎ 025 / pop 5.29 million

Nánjīng, Jiangsū's capital, lies in the southwest on the lower stretches of the Yangzi River. It's one of China's more pleasant and prosperous cities, with wide leafy boulevards, chic apartment blocks and mile-high office towers, set among a beautiful landscape of lakes, forested parks and rivers.

The city sports a long historical heritage and has twice served briefly as the nation's capital, first in the early years of the Ming dynasty (1368–1644) and second as the capital of the Republic of China in the early years of the 20th century. Most of Nánjīng's major attractions are reminders of the city's former glory under the Ming.

Today's Nánjīng is a cosmopolitan mix of old and new, where crumbling ruins stand side by side with shopping mega-plazas. Home to several excellent universities and a large foreign student population, the city boasts many international restaurants and a lively nightlife.

## History

The Nánjīng area has been inhabited for about 5000 years, and a number of prehistoric sites have been discovered in or around the city. Recorded history, however, begins in the Warring States period (453–221 BC), when Nánjīng emerged as a strategic object of conflict. The arrival of a victorious Qin dynasty (221–207 BC) put an end to this, allowing Nánjīng to prosper as a major administrative centre.

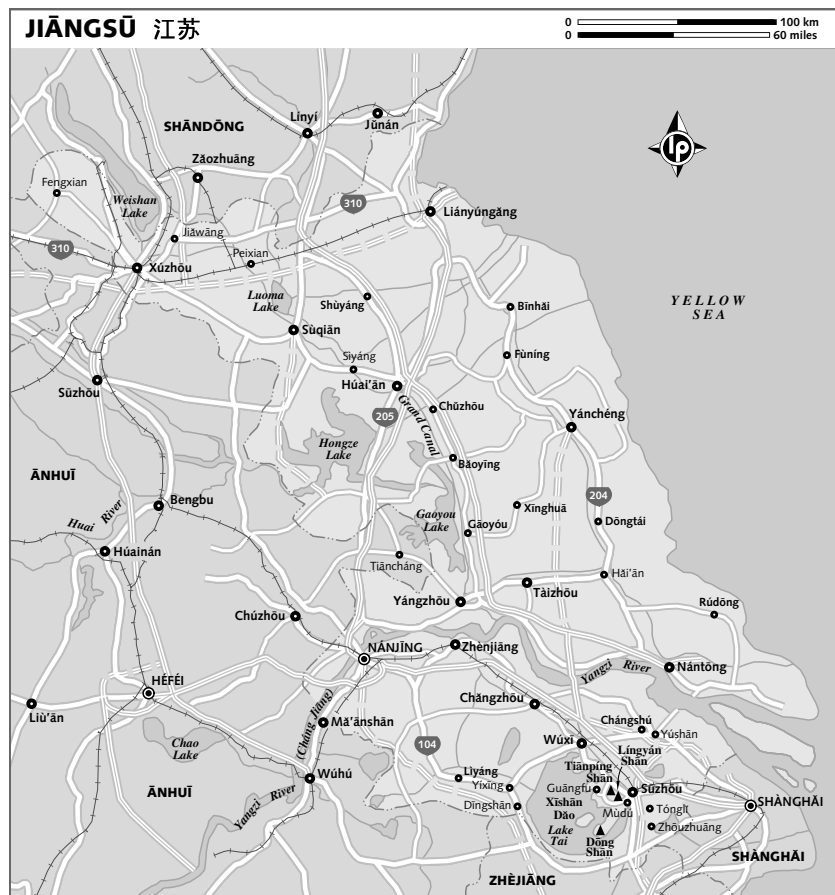
The city's fortunes took a turn for the worse in the 6th century when it was successively rocked by floods, fires, peasant rebellions and military conquest. With the advent of the Sui dynasty (AD 589–618) and the establishment of Xi'ān as imperial capital, Nánjīng was razed and its historical heritage reduced to ruins. Although it enjoyed a period of prosperity under the long-lived Tang dynasty, it gradually slipped into obscurity.

In 1356, a peasant rebellion led by Zhu Yuanzhang against the Mongol Yuan dynasty was successful. The peasants captured Nánjīng and 12 years later claimed the Yuan capital, Běijīng. Zhu Yuanzhang took the name of Hongwu and became the first emperor of the Ming dynasty, with Nánjīng as his capital. A massive palace was built and walls were erected around the city.

Nánjīng's glory as imperial capital was short-lived. In 1420, the third Ming emperor, Yongle, moved the capital back to Běijīng. From then on, Nánjīng's fortunes variously rose and declined as a regional centre, but it wasn't until the 19th and 20th centuries that the city again entered the centre stage of Chinese history.

In the 19th century, the Opium Wars brought the British to Nánjīng and it was here that the first of the 'unequal treaties' were signed, opening several Chinese ports to foreign trade, forcing China to pay a huge war indemnity, and officially ceding the island of Hong Kong to Britain. Just a few years later, Nánjīng became the Taiping capital during the Taiping Rebellion, which succeeded in taking over most of southern China.

In 1864 the combined forces of the Qing army, British army and various European and US mercenaries surrounded the city. They laid siege for seven months, before finally capturing it and slaughtering the Taiping defenders.



## THE GRAND CANAL 大运河 DÀYÙNHÉ

The world's longest canal, the Grand Canal, once meandered for almost 1800km from Běijīng to Hángzhōu, and is a striking example of China's engineering prowess. Sections of the canal have been silted up for centuries and today perhaps half of it remains seasonally navigable. The government claims that, since liberation, large-scale dredging has increased the navigable length to 1100km. However, with depths of up to 3m, banks that can narrow to less than 9m and with some old stone bridges spanning the route, canal use is restricted to fairly small, flat-bottomed vessels in some places.

The Grand Canal's construction spanned many centuries. The first 85km were completed in 495 BC, but the mammoth task of linking the Yellow River (Huáng Hé) and the Yangzi River (Cháng Jiāng) was undertaken between AD 605 and 609 by a massive conscripted labour force during Sui times. It was developed again during the Yuan dynasty (1271–1368). The canal enabled the government to capitalise on the growing wealth of the Yellow River basin and to ship supplies from south to north.

The canal comes into its own south of the Yellow River, where promoting tourism has ensured year-round navigation. The Jiāngnán section of the canal (Hángzhōu, Sūzhōu, Wúxī and Chángzhōu) is a skein of canals, rivers and branching lakes.

During the 20th century, Nánjīng was the capital of the Republic of China, the site of the worst war atrocity in Japan's assault on China (p287), and the Kuomintang capital from the period of 1928 to 1937 and, again between 1945 and 1949, before the communists 'liberated' the city and made China their own.

## Orientation

Nánjīng lies entirely on the southern bank of the Yangzi, bounded in the east by Zijin Mountain. The centre of town is a roundabout called Xinjiekou, a popular shopping district. Nánjīng train station and the main long-distance bus station are in the far north of the city.

The historical sights, including the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum, Linggu Temple and the Ming Xiaoling Tomb are on Zijin Mountain.

## MAPS

**Popular Bookmall** (Dacun Shuju; Xinjiekou; ☎ 9am–9pm) has English and Chinese maps in its travel section on the 3rd floor. You'll also find versions of local maps at newspaper kiosks and street hawkers around Nánjīng. Some of the upscale hotels give out free English-language maps of the city.

## Information

### INTERNET ACCESS 网吧

**Internet and Coffee Club** (Yijian Wāngluò Kāfēiwū; cnr of Shanghai Lu & Huaqiao Lu; ☎ 24hrs) Has internet access for ¥2 per hour.

## INTERNET RESOURCES

**www.mapmagazine.com.cn** For current events in Nánjīng.

## MEDICAL SERVICES

**Jiangsu Provincial Hospital** (Jiāngsū Shèng Rénmín Yiyuàn; ☎ 8503 8022; 300 Guangzhou Lu; ☎ 8am–noon, 2–5.30pm) Runs a clinic for expatriates and has English-speaking doctors available.

**Nanjing International SOS Clinic** (☎ 8480 2842, 24hr alarm centre ☎ 010-6462 9100) On the ground floor of the Grand Metropark Hotel. Staff on duty speak English.

## MONEY

**Bank of China** (Zhōngguó Yínháng; 29 Hongwu Lu; ☎ 8am–5pm Mon–Fri, 8am–12.30pm Sat) Changes major currency and travellers cheques. There's a 24-hour ATM which takes international cards.

## POST

**Post Office** (Yóujú; 2 Zhongshan Lu; ☎ 8am–6.30pm) Postal services and international phone calls.

## PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU

**PSB** (Gōngānjú) On a small lane called Sanyuan Xiang down a nest of streets west off Zhongshan Nanlu.

## TOURIST INFORMATION & TRAVEL AGENCIES

Most hotels have their own travel agencies and can book tickets for a small service charge. They can also arrange tours around town and to neighbouring sights. There are many inexpensive travel agencies along Zhongshan Lu and around the universities.

**China International Travel Service** (CITS; Zhōngguó Guójí Lǚxíngshè; ☎ 8342 1125; 202 Zhongshan Beilu; ☎ 9am–4pm) Very busy office across from the Nanjing Hotel that arranges tours, and books air and train tickets.

## Sights

### ZIJIN MOUNTAIN 紫金山

Dominating the eastern fringes of Nánjīng is **Zijin Mountain** (Zijin Shān), or 'Purple-Gold Mountain', a heavily forested area of parks and the site of most of Nánjīng's historical attractions. It's also one of the coolest places to escape from the steamy summers. A half-hour ride on a **able car** (one-way/return ¥15/25) carries you to the top of the 448m hill for a panoramic, if somewhat hazy, view of Nánjīng, or you can walk up the stone path that runs beneath the cable cars. Near the top of the hill is an **observatory** (adult/child ¥15/10; ☎ 8.30am–6pm), with a remarkable collection of bronze Ming and Qing astronomical instruments once used by Jesuit missionaries.

Buses 9 or Y1 go from the city centre to the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum at the centre of the mountain. From here, bus 20 runs between all the sites on the mountain from 8am to 5pm, costing ¥2 per ride.

### SUN YATSEN MAUSOLEUM 中山陵

Smack dab in the middle of the mountain is the **Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum** (Zhōngshān Líng; admission ¥40; ☎ 7am–6pm). Dr Sun is recognised by the communists and Kuomintang alike as the father of modern China. He died in Běijīng in 1925, leaving behind an unstable Chinese republic. He had wished to be buried in Nánjīng, no doubt with greater simplicity than the Ming-style tomb his successors built for him. Nevertheless, less than a year after his death, construction of this mausoleum began.

The tomb itself lies at the top of an enormous stone stairway – a breathless 392 steps. At the start of the path stands a dignified stone gateway built of Fujian marble, with a roof of blue-glazed tiles. The blue and white of the mausoleum symbolise the white sun on the blue background of the Kuomintang flag.

The crypt is at the top of the steps at the rear of the memorial chamber. A tablet hanging across the threshold is inscribed with the 'Three Principles of the People', as formulated by Dr Sun: nationalism, democracy and people's livelihood. Inside is a statue of Dr Sun seated. The walls are carved with the

complete text of the Outline of Principles for the Establishment of the Nation put forward by the Nationalist government. A prostrate marble statue of Dr Sun seals his coffin.

### MING XIAOLING TOMB 明孝陵

On the southern slope of Zijin Mountain is the 14th-century **tomb** (Míng Xiàolíng; admission ¥60; ☎ 8am–5.30pm) of Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang, the only Ming emperor to be buried outside of Běijīng.

The tomb received the name *xiàolíng* or 'filial tomb' after the death of his wife Empress Ma, also buried here, whose nickname was 'the filial empress'.

The first section of the avenue leading up to the mausoleum takes you along the 'spirit path', lined with stone statues of lions, camels, elephants and horses. There's also a mythical animal called a *xiè zhi* – which has a mane and a single horn on its head – and a *qilin*, which has a scaly body, a cow's tail, deer's hooves and one horn. These stone animals drive away evil spirits and guard the tomb.

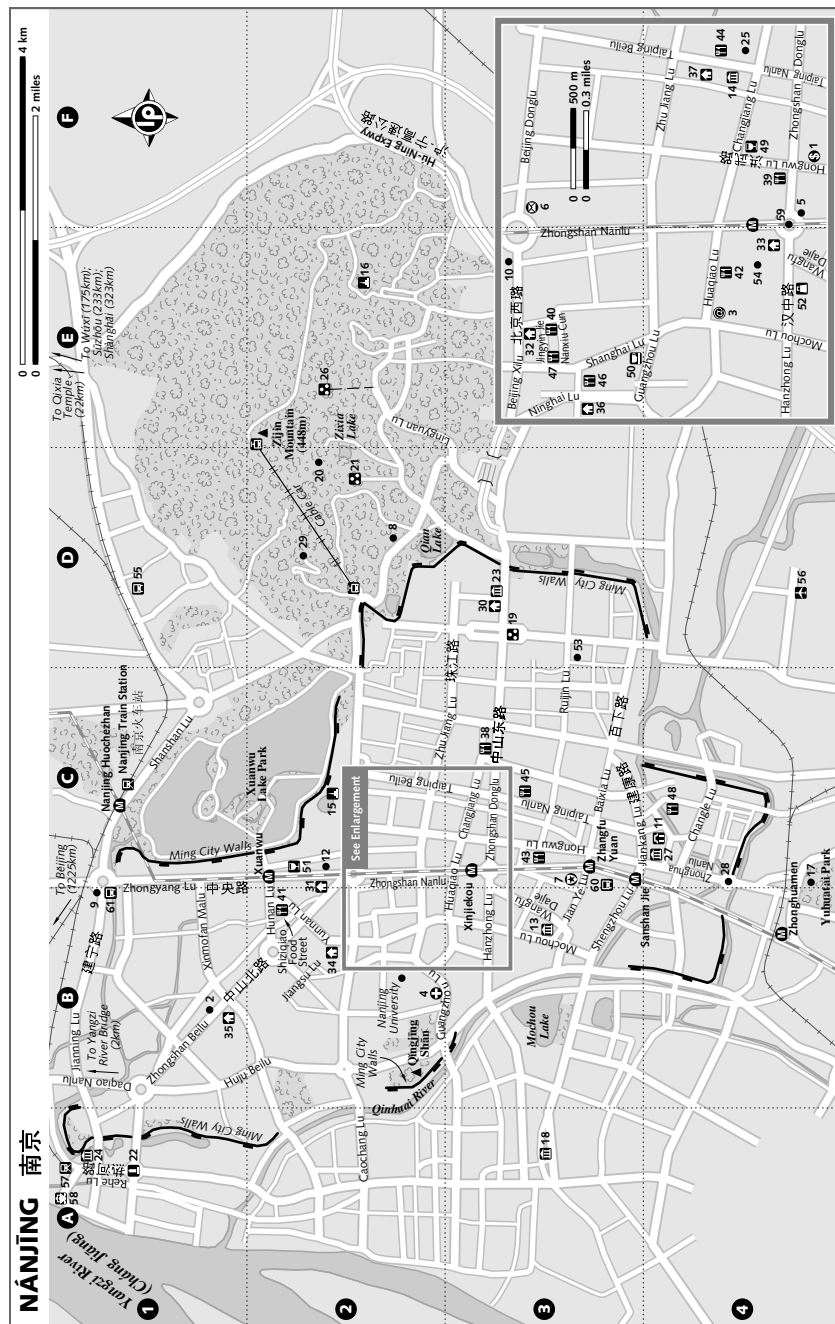
As you enter the first courtyard, a paved pathway leads to a pavilion housing several stelae. The next gate leads to a large courtyard with the **Linghun Pagoda** (Línghún Tǎ), a mammoth rectangular stone structure. Behind the tower is a wall, 350m in diameter, surrounding a huge earth mound. Beneath this mound is the tomb vault of Hongwu, which has not been excavated.

The area surrounding the tomb is the **Ming Xiaoling Scenic Area** (Míng Xiàolíng Fēngjǐngqū). A tree-lined, stone pathway winds around pavilions and picnic grounds and ends at scenic **Zixia Lake** (Zìxiá Hú).

### LINGGU TEMPLE 灵谷寺

This large Ming **temple complex** (Línggǔ Sì; admission ¥15; ☎ 8am–5.30pm) has one of the most interesting buildings in Nánjīng – the **Beamless Hall** (Wúliáng Diàn), built in 1381 entirely out of brick and stone and containing no beam supports. Buildings during the Ming dynasty were normally constructed of wood, but timber shortages meant that builders had to rely on brick. The structure has an interesting vaulted ceiling and a large stone platform where Buddhist statues once sat. In the 1930s the hall was turned into a memorial to those who died resisting the Japanese. One of the inscriptions on the inside wall is the old Kuomintang national anthem.



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A road runs on both sides of the hall and up two flights of steps to the graceful **Pine Wind Pavilion** (Sōngfēng Gé), originally dedicated to Guanyin as part of Linggu Temple.

The temple itself and a memorial hall to Xuan Zang (the Buddhist monk who travelled to India and brought back the Buddhist scriptures) are close by; after you pass through the Beamless Hall, turn right and then follow the pathway.

Inside the memorial hall is a model of a 13-storey wooden pagoda that contains part of Xuan Zang's skull, a sacrificial table and a portrait of the monk.

Nearby is the colourful **Linggu Pagoda** (Línggǔ Tǎ). This nine-storey, 60m-high, octagonal pagoda was built in 1929 under the direction of a US architect to remember those who died during the revolution.

**BOTANIC GARDENS 植物园**

This well-manicured labyrinth of **gardens** (Zhīwù Yuán; admission Y15; ☎ 8.30am-4.30pm) was established in 1929. Covering over 186 hectares, more than 3000 plant species including roses,

medicinal plants and bonsai gardens are on display.

**TAIPING HEAVENLY KINGDOM HISTORY MUSEUM**

太平天国历史博物馆  
Hong Xiuquan, the leader of the Taipings, had a palace built in Nánjing, but the building was completely destroyed when Nánjing was taken in 1864.

The **museum** (Taiping Tiānguó Lìshǐ Bówùguǎn; 128 Zhanyuan Lu; admission Y10; ☎ 8am-6pm) was originally a garden complex, built in the Ming dynasty, which housed some of the Taiping officials before their downfall. There are displays of maps showing the progress of the Taiping army from Guǎngdōng, Hong Xiuquan's seals, Taiping coins, weapons and texts that describe the Taiping laws on agrarian reform, social law and cultural policy. Other texts describe divisions in the Taiping leadership, the attacks by Manchus and foreigners, and the fall of Nánjing in 1864. Most of the original literature is in Běijīng. The museum will delight Chinese history buffs. Bus Y2 goes to the museum from the Ming Palace Ruins or Taiping Nanlu.

**NÁNJĪNG MUSEUM** 南京博物馆

Just inside the eastern city walls, the giant Nánjīng **museum** (Nánjīng Bówùguǎn; 321 Zhongshan Donglu; admission ¥20; ☎ 9am-5.30pm) houses an array of artefacts from Neolithic times right through to the communist period. The main building was constructed in 1933 in the style of a Ming temple with yellow-glazed tiles, red-lacquered gates and columns.

The museum houses an interesting burial suit made of small rectangles of jade sewn together with silver thread, dating from the Eastern Han dynasty (AD 25-220) and excavated from a tomb discovered in the city of Xúzhōu in northern Jiāngsū. Other exhibits include bricks with the inscriptions of their makers and overseers from the Ming city wall, drawings of old Nánjīng, an early Qing mural of Sūzhōu and relics from the Taiping Rebellion. Everything is labelled in English and well-organised.

**NÁNJĪNG TREATY HISTORY MUSEUM** 南京条约史料陈列馆

This **museum** (Nánjīng Tiāoyuē Shìliào Chénlìguǎn; 116 Chao Yue Lou; admission ¥6; ☎ 8.30am-5pm) houses a small collection of photographs, maps and newspaper clippings (no English captions) related to the Nánjīng Treaties. It's all rather yawn-worthy and probably only of interest to those keen on Chinese history. The museum is in **Jinghai Temple** (Jīnghǎi Sì) near the west train station, off Rehe Lu. To get there catch bus 16 from Zhongshan Lu.

**MEMORIAL HALL OF THE NÁNJĪNG MASSACRE** 南京大屠杀纪念馆

The unsettling exhibits at this **memorial hall** (Nánjīng Dàtúshā Jìniànguǎn; ☎ 661 2230; 418 Shuiximen Dajie; admission free; ☎ 8.30am-4.30pm) document the atrocities committed by Japanese soldiers against the civilian population during the occupation of Nánjīng in 1937 (opposite). They include pictures of actual executions – many taken by Japanese army photographers – and a gruesome viewing hall built over a mass grave of massacre victims. Captions are in English, Japanese and Chinese but the photographs, skeletons and displays tell their own haunting stories without words.

The exhibits conclude on a more optimistic note, with a final room dedicated to the post-1945 Sino-Japanese reconciliation. It's in the city's southwestern suburbs; take bus Y4 from Zhonghua Gate or the west train station.

**JIANGSŪ ART GALLERY** 江苏美术馆

This **gallery** (Jiāngsū Měishùguǎn; ☎ 8664 1962; 266 Changjiang Lu; admission ¥10; ☎ 8-11.30am & 2-5pm) puts on frequently changing exhibits of water-colour and ink paintings by local artists. The artwork is quite interesting but the gallery is very sterile and uninspiring.

**MONUMENT TO THE CROSSING OF THE YANGZI RIVER** 渡江纪念碑

In the northwest of the city on Zhongshan Beilu, this **monument** (Dùjiāng Jìniànbēi; admission ¥20), erected in April 1979, commemorates the crossing of the river on 23 April 1949 and the capture of Nánjīng from the Kuomintang by the communist army. The characters on the monument are in the calligraphy of Deng Xiaoping. To get there catch bus 31 from Taiping Lu.

**YANGZI RIVER BRIDGE** 南京长江大桥

One of the great achievements of the communists, and one of which they are justifiably proud, is the **Yangzi River Bridge** (Nánjīng Cháng Jiāng Dàqiáo) at Nánjīng. Opened on 23 December 1968, it's one of the longest bridges in China – a double-decker with a 4500m-long road on top and a train line below. There are some wonderful socialist realist sculptures on the approaches.

Apparently the bridge was designed and built entirely by the Chinese after the Russians marched out and took the designs with them in 1960. Given the immensity of the construction it's an impressive engineering feat, before which there was no direct rail link between Běijīng and Shànghǎi. Probably the easiest way to get up on the bridge is to go through the **Bridge Park** (Dàqiáo Gōngyuán; ☎ 582 2455; adult/child ¥12/10; ☎ 7.30am-6.30pm). Catch bus 67 from Jiangsu Lu, northwest of the Drum Tower, to its terminus opposite the park.

**HEAVEN DYNASTY PALACE** 朝天宫

This **palace** (Chāotiān Gōng; admission ¥30; ☎ 8am-5pm), off Mochou Lu, was originally established in the Ming dynasty as a school for educating aristocratic children in court etiquette. Most of today's buildings, including the centrepiece of the palace, a Confucian temple, date from 1866 when the whole complex was rebuilt. Today the buildings are used for a range of endeavours, including an artisans' market.

To get here, take bus 4 from the Xinjiekou roundabout; get off two stops to the west.

**MING CITY WALLS**

Nánjīng enjoyed its golden years under the Ming dynasty and there are numerous remnants of the period. One of the most impressive is the impressive, five-storey Ming city wall, measuring over 33km – the longest city wall ever built in the world. About two-thirds of it still stands. It was built between 1366 and 1386, by more than 200,000 labourers.

The layout of the wall is irregular, an exception to the usual square format of these times; it zigzags around Nánjīng's hills and rivers, accommodating the local landscape. Averaging 12m high and 7m wide at the top, the wall was built of bricks supplied from five Chinese provinces. Each brick had stamped on it the place it came from, the overseer's name and rank, the brick-maker's name and sometimes the date. This was to ensure that the bricks were well made; if they broke they had to be replaced.

**MING CITY GATES**

Some of the original 13 Ming city gates remain, including the **Centre Gate** (Zhōngyāng

Mén) in the north and **Zhonghua Gate** (Zhōnghuá Mén; admission ¥8) in the south. The city gates were heavily fortified; Zhonghua Gate has four rows of gates, making it almost impregnable, and could house a garrison of 3000 soldiers in vaults in the front gate building. Today some of these vaults are used as souvenir shops.

**MING PALACE RUINS** 明故宫

Built by Hongwu, the **Ming Palace Ruins** (Míng Gùgōng; Zhongshan Donglu; admission free; ☎ 6.30am-11pm) is said to have been a magnificent structure after which the Imperial Palace in Běijīng was modelled. Virtually all that remains of it are five marble bridges lying side by side, known as the **Five Dragon Bridges** (Wūlóng Qiáo), the old ruined **Wu Gate** (Wú Mén) and the enormous column bases of the palace buildings.

The palace suffered two major fires in its first century and was allowed to fall into ruins after the Ming court moved to Běijīng. It was later looted by the Manchus and bombardments by Qing and Western troops finished it off during the Taiping Rebellion.

**THE RAPE OF NÁNJĪNG**

In 1937, with the Chinese army comparatively weak and underfunded and the Japanese army on the horizon, the invasion into and occupation of Nánjīng by Japan appeared imminent. As it packed up and fled, the Chinese government encouraged the people of Nánjīng to stay, saying: 'All those who have blood and breath in them must feel that they wish to be broken as jade rather than remain whole as tile.' To reinforce this statement, the gates to the city were locked, trapping over half a million citizens inside. Nevertheless, thousands of civilians attempted to follow the retreating government by escaping through Xiaguan Gate, the only gate in the city wall that remained unlocked. Leading up to the gate was a 21m tunnel inside of which reigned panic and mayhem. In the resulting chaos and collisions, thousands of people were suffocated, burned or trampled to death.

What followed in Nánjīng was six weeks of continuous, unfathomable victimisation of civilians to an extent that had yet to be witnessed in modern warfare. During Japan's occupation of Nánjīng, between 300,000 and 400,000 Chinese civilians were killed, either in group massacres or individual murders. Within the first month, at least 20,000 women between the ages of 11 and 76 were brutally raped. Women who attempted to refuse or children who interfered were often bayoneted or shot. It has been reported by those involved that the atrocities committed in Nánjīng were condoned and encouraged by the Japanese officers in command as acceptable and expected military procedure.

The Japanese, however, underestimated the courage and strength of the Chinese people. Instead of breaking the people's will, the invasion only served to fuel a sense of identity and determination. Those who did not die – broken as jade – survived to fight back.

It is hoped that a growing awareness of this horrific event will help to prevent such atrocities from occurring again. As the ancient Chinese proverb says, 'Past experience, if not forgotten, is a guide for the future' (*Qián shì bù wàng hòu shì zhī shì*).

An excellent book on the subject is the highly acclaimed *The Rape of Nanjing* by Iris Chang, which details the atrocities suffered by Chinese civilians under the occupation of the Japanese.

You can reach the Ming Palace Ruins by catching bus Y1 from the Nánjīng train station or Zhongyang Lu.

#### JIMING TEMPLE 鸡鸣寺

Close to the Ming walls and Xuanwu Lake (Xuánwú Hú) is the Buddhist **Jiming Temple** (Jímíng Sì; admission ¥5; ☎ 7am-5pm), which was first built in AD 527, during the Three Kingdoms period. It's been rebuilt many times since but has retained the same name (which literally translates as 'rooster crowing') since 1387. This temple is the most active temple in Nánjīng and is packed with worshippers during the Lunar New Year. The area around the temple is quite pretty and worth a look.

#### FUZI TEMPLE 夫子庙

This ancient Confucian temple (Fūzǐ Miào; Gongyuan Jie; admission ¥25; ☎ 8am-9pm), in the south of the city in a pedestrian zone, was a centre of Confucian study for more than 1500 years. Fuzi Temple has been damaged and rebuilt repeatedly; what you see here today are newly restored, late-Qing dynasty structures or wholly new buildings reconstructed in traditional style. The main temple is behind the small square in front of the canal.

Across from the temple complex to the east is the **Imperial Examinations History Museum** (Jiāngnán Gōngyuan Lìshǐ Chénlìguǎn; 1 Jinling Lu; admission ¥10; ☎ 8am-6pm). This is a recent reconstruction of the building where scholars once spent months – or years – in tiny cells studying Confucian classics in preparation for civil service examinations.

Today, the area surrounding Fuzi Temple has become Nánjīng's main amusement quarter and is a particularly lively and crowded place on weekends and public holidays, with restaurants and rows upon rows of souvenir shops. The whole area is lit up at night, adding to the kitsch ambience.

Catch bus 1 from Xinjiekou and get off at the last stop.

#### PRESIDENTIAL PALACE 总统府

After the Taipings took over Nánjīng, they built the Mansion of the Heavenly King (Tiānwáng Fǔ) on the foundations of a former Ming dynasty palace. This magnificent place did not survive the fall of the Taiping but there is a reconstruction and a classical Ming garden, now known as the **Presidential Palace** (Zǒngtǒng Fǔ; 292 Changjiang Lu; admission ¥40; ☎ 8am-

5.30pm). Other buildings on the site were used briefly as presidential offices by Sun Yatsen's government in 1912 and by the Kuomintang from 1927 to 1949.

#### MARTYRS' CEMETERY 烈士墓地

This cemetery (Lièshì Mùdì; Yuhuatai Lu; admission ¥10; ☎ 7am-10pm) is in the south of the city. Once the Kuomintang's execution grounds, the communists turned it into a garden dedicated to revolutionaries who had lost their lives here. Along with a large monument, there's an English-captioned **museum** (☎ 8am-5.30pm) with a history of the period before 1949 and biographies of revolutionaries.

#### EARLY REMAINS

Nánjīng has been inhabited since prehistoric times. Remains of a prehistoric culture have been found at the site of the Drum Tower and in surrounding areas. About 200 sites of small clan communities, mainly represented by pottery and bronze artefacts dating back to the late Shang and Zhou dynasties, were found on both sides of the Yangzi.

In AD 212, towards the end of the Eastern Han period, the military commander in charge of the Nánjīng region built a citadel on Qingjing Shān (Qingjing Mountain) in the west of Nánjīng. At that time the mountain was referred to as Stone Mountain (Shítou Shān) and so the citadel became known as the Stone City (Shítou Dūshì). The wall measured over 10km in circumference. Today, some of the red sandstone foundations are still visible.

To get here, take bus 75, 21, 91 or 132.

#### DRUM TOWER 鼓楼

Built in 1382, the **Drum Tower** (Gǔ Lóu; ☎ 442 1495; 6 Zhongyang Lu; admission free; ☎ 8am-midnight) lies roughly in the centre of Nánjīng, on a grassy roundabout. Drums were usually beaten to give directions for the change of the night watches and, in rare instances, to warn the populace of impending danger. Only one large drum remains today.

#### GREAT BELL PAVILION 大钟亭

East of the Drum Tower, the **Great Bell Pavilion** (Dà Zhōng Tíng; Beijing Donglu; admission free; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm) houses an enormous bell, cast in 1388 and originally situated in a pavilion on the western side of the Drum Tower. The present tower dates from 1889 and is a small

two-storey pavilion with a pointed roof and upturned eaves. A garden and teahouse surround the tower and remain open late into the evening.

#### Tours

Local tours can be arranged through hotels, the CITS or any of the inexpensive travel agencies on Zhongshan Donglu.

#### Festivals & Events

The **Nánjīng International Plum Blossom Festival**, held every year from the last Saturday of February to 18 March, draws visitors from around China. The festival takes place on Zijin Mountain near the Ming Xiaoling Tomb when the mountain bursts with pink and white blossoms.

#### Sleeping

Most Nánjīng accommodation is midrange to top end in price. All rooms have broadband internet, and you can book air and train tickets.

#### BUDGET

**Nanjing Fuzimiao International Youth Hostel** (www.Yhananjing.com; 38 Dashiba Jie) This very friendly hostel, located on the edges of Fuzi Temple, has plans to move to a new location in late 2006. It'll still be in Fuzimiao, in a renovated temple near the main entrance.

**Nanjing Normal University Nanshan Hotel** (Nánjīng Shīfán Dàxué Nánshān Bīnguǎn; ☎ 8371 6440 ext 6060; 122 Ninghai Lu; 宁海路122号; s/d/tr ¥100/198/240) Located on the parklike grounds of Nánjīng University, rooms in this guesthouse feature battle-scarred furniture and dingy carpet. The surrounds, on the other hand, are refreshingly green and quiet. Enter from the university's main gate, turn left and walk up the hill.

**Jin's Inn** (Jīn Yīcūn; www.jinsinn.com; ☎ 8472 2888; 26 Yunnan Lu; 云南路26号; s/d ¥158/198) It's hard to miss this eye-popping orange-and-yellow hotel, standing like a beacon next to its utilitarian grey neighbours. Despite its glowing exterior, rooms are simple, cool and modern. There are four other locations around the city, including one at Fuzimiao.

#### MIDRANGE

**Jingli Hotel** (Jīnglǐ Jiǔdiàn; ☎ 8331 0818; fax 8663 6636; 7 Beijing Xilu; 北京西路7号; s/d ¥420/545) This classy hotel on a pretty tree-lined street has upmarket rooms with modern, spotless bathrooms

and amiable service. It's a short walk from here to the Great Bell Pavilion or Nánjīng University.

**Zijing Hotel** (Zījīng Dàjiǔdiàn; ☎ 8444 5999; fax 8664 5129; 37 Taiping Beilu; 太平北路37号; s/d ¥480/580) Just a stone's throw from the Presidential Palace and across from Nanjing 1912 (below), this hotel offers spacious rooms and soft beds. Somebody went cuckoo with the décor, though – some rooms have plush orange carpet and pink walls!

**Jiangsu Hotel** (Jiāngsū Dàjiǔdiàn; ☎ 8332 0888; fax 330 3308; 28 Zhongshan Beilu; 中山北路28号; s/d ¥500/600) Not as nice as the Jingli, this hotel is still excellent value for the price, with easy-on-the-eyes décor and a convenient location. To compete with the Ramada across the street, rates are slashed as much as 50% on weekdays.

#### TOP END

**Nanjing Hotel** (Nánjīng Fāndiàn; ☎ 8341 1888; 259 Zhongshan Beilu; 中山北路259号; s ¥608-808, d ¥398-808, tr ¥838) Set on secluded grounds away from the street, this hotel, built in 1936, offers a selection of nicely furnished, comfortable rooms. The cheaper rooms are in a separate building and discounts of 30% make this place a steal.

**Jinling Hotel** (Jīnlíng Fāndiàn; ☎ 8471 1888; fax 8471 1666; www.jinlinghotel.com; Xinjiekou; 新街口; d ¥1535-1660) In the middle of a busy shopping district, the Jinling has chic four-star rooms with a surfeit of amenities, including a sauna, several restaurants and a gym. Rooms are discounted 30% on weekdays.

**Grand Metropark Hotel** (Wéijīng Dàjiǔdiàn; ☎ 8480 8888; 319 Zhongshan Donglu; 中山东路319号; s/d US\$180/200) This five-star establishment (formerly the Hilton) offers 40 storeys of luxury, including a golf course, bowling alley, swimming pool and state-of-the-art fitness centre. It's in an excellent location next to the Nánjīng Museum and close to Zijin Mountain.

#### Eating

The two main eating quarters in Nánjīng are at Fuzi Temple and Shiziqiao off Hunan Lu. Both are lively pedestrian areas that come alive at night, packed with people, snack stands and small restaurants. You'll also find a scattering of family-run restaurants in the small lanes around the university district.

Located on the corner of Taipei Beilu and Changjiang Lu, near the Presidential Palace, is a new development called Nanjing 1912, a compound of shiny new bars, clubs, coffee



houses and upscale restaurants, most still being built as this book goes to press.

**Gold and Silver** (Jīnyīn Cāntīng; 17-3 Jīnyīn Jiē; mains Y8-25; ☎ 11am-10pm) This is one of many small restaurants around Nánjīng University that cook up inexpensive home-style Chinese dishes. There's an extensive English menu and the owner is very friendly. On the walls are hundreds of pictures of foreigners who've frequented the place over the years.

**Great Nanjing Eatery** (Nánjīng Dàpáidǎng; ☎ 8330 5777; 2 Shìzǐ Qiào; mains Y10; ☎ 11am-2pm, 5pm-2am) This old-style teahouse is a popular place to try yummy local snacks such as duck-blood soup with rice-noodles (鴨血粉絲湯; *yāxiě fēnsī tāng*) or tofu 'brains' (豆腐腦; *dòufu nǎo*), salty custard-like tofu. There's no English sign so look for the two large stone lions out front.

**Skyways Bakery & Deli** (Yúnzhōng Shípīndiàn; ☎ 8663 4834; 3-6 Hānkou Xīlù; sandwiches Y18; ☎ 9.30am-9.30pm) For fresh-baked bread, sandwiches and coffee, head to this small deli owned by the same people who manage Swede and Kraut. There's a useful bulletin board with notices posting what's happening around town

**10,000 Buddhas Vegetarian Restaurant** (Wàn fózhāi Sùcāiguān; ☎ 8451 8531; Pílù Temple; mains Y25-50; ☎ 9am-6pm) Just east of the Presidential Palace on Meiyuan Lu, this temple has a restaurant that offers tasty mock-meat dishes in contemplative surroundings.

**Sichuan Jiǔjiā** (171 Taiping Nanlu; ☎ 8460 8801; mains Y25-50; ☎ 11am-11pm) Despite the name, this is also a terrific place to sample local dishes. Here, Nánjīng pressed duck (盐水鸭; *yánshuǐ yā*) is slathered with roasted salt, steeped in clear brine, baked dry and then kept under cover for some time; the finished product should have a creamy-coloured skin and red, tender flesh. The Sichuan-style dishes are also nice and spicy.

There's no English sign so look for the bright red building and the sign with dancing chilli peppers.

**Wǎnqíng Lóu** (Dashiba Jiē; mains Y30-60; ☎ 9am-10pm) This restaurant is on the opposite side of the river from Fuzi Temple's main square. Here you can try delicious Nánjīng snacks and local specialities in a fun, carnival atmosphere.

If you want to forget all about Chinese food, head over to one of the cluster of restaurants around Nánjīng University catering to adventurous locals and foreign students.

**Swede and Kraut** (Yúnzhōngcān; 14 Nanxiu Cun; ☎ 8663 8798; meals Y30-80; ☎ 5.30-10pm Tue-Sun) For tasty pasta dishes, pizza and salads, you can't beat this popular university hangout. Portions are large and service is amicable. Booster seats are available for kids here.

**Bella Napoli Italian Restaurant** (Nàbōlì Yídǎlì Cāntīng; ☎ 8471 8397; 75 Zhongshan Donglu; mains from Y38; ☎ 11am-2pm & 5.30-10.30pm Mon-Fri, 11.30am-11pm Sat & Sun) This place claims to be the most authentic Italian restaurant in town, with a variety of delicious handmade pastas, pizzas and other entrees. Try its delicious ravioli with ricotta and spinach.

**Henry's Home Cafe** (Hēnglǐ Zhījiā; 33 Huaqiao Lu; mains Y40-80; ☎ 11am-9pm) Henry's is a mainstay in Nánjīng, serving up good pasta, pizza, fajitas and steak dishes. Service is competent and it accommodates vegetarians. There's another branch just outside Shìzǐ Qiào.

## Drinking CAFÉS

The caffeine craze has Nánjīng buzzing and you'll find Western-style coffee shops on almost every city block. What some places call coffee is questionable; for the real stuff head to places around the university area.

**Home Sweet Home** (Ài Hui Jiā; ☎ 8330 1847; 77-1 Shanghai Lu; coffee from Y18, sandwiches & pastries from Y15; ☎ 10am-10pm) This modest café near the intersection of Guangzhou Lu and Shanghai Lu is a far cry from the ubiquitous coffee house chains sprouting up around the city. Choose from a wide range of coffees, pastries and sandwiches – the ice-mint coffee and brownies are a good afternoon pick-me-up.

## BARS

Nánjīng's bar and club scene has exploded over the past few years, though it's still not as vibrant or imaginative as in Shànghǎi. Most clubs and bars are overwhelmingly generic, serving up overpriced drinks and playing the same synthetic music, with few exceptions.

**JJ's Lounge Bar** (JJ Jiǔbā; ☎ 8469 9557; 89 Zhongshan Nanlu; beer Y25; ☎ 10am-10pm) This is a laid-back haunt with comfy sofas and a wide choice of beer and wine on offer. The place appeals to a wide range of folks – from foreign students to businessmen to trendy urban youth.

**Scarlet Bar** (Luànshì Jiārén Jiǔbā; ☎ 8440 7656; 29 Gulou Chezhan Dongxiang; beer Y10; ☎ 10am-4am) This small place is on a lane off Zhongyang Lu and

is popular with a younger, local crowd. The dancing starts around 10pm.

You'll also find a number of bars in the **Art and Culture Centre** (Nánjīng Wénhuà Yìshù Zhōngxīn; 101 Changjiang Lu) and at Nanjing 1912 near the Presidential Palace.

## Entertainment

**Jiangsu Kunju Theatre** (江苏省昆剧院; Jiāngsū Shèng Kūnjūyuàn; 2 Chaotian Gong; tickets Y30) Excellent *kūnjù* or *kūnqǔ* opera performances are held here. This type of opera is a regional form of classical Chinese opera that developed in the Sūzhōu–Hángzhōu–Nánjīng triangle. It's similar to (but slower than) Beijing opera and is performed with colourful and elaborate costumes. The theatre is next to the eastern entrance of the Heaven Dynasty Palace. Take bus 4 from the Xinjiekou roundabout and get off two stops to the west.

## Shopping

There's little you can't buy in Nánjīng – from designer clothing to trinket souvenirs. Hunan Lu has a late-night market and is lined with shops and stalls. It's good for clothes shopping during the day. The area surrounding Fuzi Temple is a pedestrian zone with souvenirs and antiques for sale. Around Hanzhong Lu and Zhongshan Lu you'll find a number of major department stores.

**Golden Eagle International Shopping Centre** (Jīnyīng Guójī Góuwù Zhōngxīn; 89 Hanzhong Lu) A little more upmarket, this shopping centre near Xinjiekou is aimed at a younger crowd with more disposable income.

## Getting There & Away

### AIR

Nánjīng has regular air connections to all major Chinese cities.

The main office for the **Civil Aviation Administration of China** (CAAC; Zhōngguó Mínháng; ☎ 8449 9378; 50 Ruijin Lu) is near the terminus of bus route 37, but you can also buy tickets at most top-end hotels.

**Dragonair** (Gǎnglóng Hángkōng; ☎ 8471 0181; Room 751-53, World Trade Centre, 2 Hanzhong Lu) has daily flights to Hong Kong.

### BOAT

Several ferries depart daily from Yangzi port downriver (eastward) to Shànghǎi (about 10 hours) and upriver (westward) to Wúhàn (two days); a few boats also go to Chóngqìng

(five days). The passenger dock is in the northwest of the city at No 6 dock (Liù Hào Mǎtóu). Tickets can be booked at the dock in the terminal building. For full details on Yangzi cruises, see p811.

### BUS

There are seven long-distance bus stations in Nánjīng and trying to figure out what buses take you where can make your head spin. Before heading out, have your hotel confirm the appropriate bus station. Zhōngyāng Mén is the largest long-distance bus station, located southwest of the wide-bridged intersection with Zhongyang Lu. Buses from here go to Shànghǎi (Y82 to Y88, four hours), Héféi (Y38 to Y54, 2½ hours), Huangshan City (Túnxi; Y76, four hours), Hángzhōu (Y100, four hours) and Sūzhōu (Y64 to Y67, 2½ hours).

Another useful station is the east bus station (qīchē dōngzhàn), where buses go to Zhènjiāng (Y15 to Y24, 1½ hours), Wúxī (Y18 to Y20; 1½ hours) and Yángzhōu (Y27, two hours).

From the train station, take bus 13 north to Zhōngyāng Mén bus station. Bus 2 from Xinjiekou goes to the east bus station.

### TRAIN

Nánjīng is a major stop on the Běijīng–Shànghǎi train line, and the station is mayhem. There are several trains a day in both directions. Heading eastward from Nánjīng, the line to Shànghǎi connects with Zhènjiāng, Wúxī and Sūzhōu.

Four daily express trains run between Nánjīng and Shànghǎi (Y47, three hours). Other trains to Shànghǎi take four hours, stopping in Zhènjiāng (Y13, one hour) and Sūzhōu (Y41, 2½ hours). Some of the express trains also stop in Zhènjiāng and Sūzhōu.

There are trains to Hángzhōu (Y73, five hours) and a slow train to Guǎngzhōu (Y387, 32 hours) via Shànghǎi. There's a train from Shànghǎi to Huangshan City (Túnxi) in Ānhuī province that passes through Nánjīng (Y112, seven hours) and also a train to the port of Wúhú on the Yangzi River that continues on to Huangshan City (Túnxi; Y102, seven hours). You can buy train tickets at most hotels for a Y5 to Y10 service charge.

## Getting Around TO/FROM THE AIRPORT

Nánjīng's airport is approximately one hour south of the city. Airport shuttle buses

(Y25) run every half-hour between 6am and 7pm. Buses leave from the Zhongbei station (Zhōngběi kèyùnzhan) on Zhongshan Nanlu. Most hotels have hourly shuttle buses to and from the airport. A taxi will cost around Y150.

### LOCAL TRANSPORT

Nánjīng has a new and efficient metro system that cuts through the centre of the city. There's currently only one line, running from Màngāojiào in the north to the Olympic Sports Stadium in the southwest between 6.41am and 10pm. Tickets are Y2 to Y4.

Taxis cruise the streets of Nánjīng – most destinations in the city are Y8, but make sure the meter is switched on.

You can get to Xinjiekou, in the heart of town, by jumping on bus 13 from the train station or the Centre Gate. There are also tourist bus routes that visit many of the sites. Bus Y1 goes from the train and Zhōngyāng Mén bus station through the city to the Sun Yatsen Mausoleum. Bus Y2 starts in the south at the Martyrs' Cemetery, passes Fuzi Temple and terminates halfway up Zijin Mountain.

Many local maps contain bus routes. Normal buses cost Y1 and tourist buses cost Y2.

### AROUND NÁNJING

#### Qixia Temple 栖霞寺

This temple (Qixiā Sì; admission Y10; ☎ 7am-5.30pm) on Qixia Mountain, 22km northeast of Nánjīng, was founded by the Buddhist monk Ming Sengshao during the Southern Qi dynasty, and is still an active place of worship. It's long been one of China's most important monasteries, and even today is one of the largest Buddhist seminaries in the country. There are two main temple halls: the Maitreya Hall, with a statue of the Maitreya Buddha sitting cross-legged at the entrance; and, behind this, the Vairocana Hall, housing a 5m-tall statue of the Vairocana Buddha.

Behind the temple is the **Thousand Buddha Cliff** (Qiānfó Yá). Several small caves housing stone statues are carved into the hillside, the earliest of which dates from the Qi dynasty (AD 479–502), although there are others from succeeding dynasties through to the Ming. There is also a small stone pagoda, **Sheli Pagoda** (舍利; Shèlì Tǎ), built in AD 601, and rebuilt during the late Tang period. The upper part has engraved sutras and carvings of Buddha;

around the base, each of the pagoda's eight sides depicts Sakyamuni.

You can reach this temple from Nánjīng by a public bus (marked Qixiā Sì; Y3, one hour) that departs from opposite the train station.

### ZHÈNJIĀNG 镇江

☎ 0511 / pop 2.65 million

Just an hour from Nánjīng, Zhènjiāng sits at the crossroads of the Grand Canal and Yangzi River and once served as an important trade centre for silk and, yes, pickles and vinegar. After the Opium Wars, the British and French set up concessions in the northern part of town; the former British consulate is now a museum for visitors. The American writer Pearl S Buck (1892–1973), author of the *Good Earth*, grew up in Zhènjiāng and her former home is now part of a factory complex. Nowadays, apart from a Buddhist temple and several attractive parks, there's little to see and many of the old, interesting parts of the city have been flattened by recent construction.

### Orientation & Information

The oldest part of Zhènjiāng is around Daxi Lu, which still has a few old-style lanes to explore with traditional architecture, especially beyond the western end of the street. A new promenade along the shores of the Yangzi is also a pleasant place for a stroll.

**Bank of China** (Zhōngguó Yínháng; ☎ 9am-5.30pm)

On Zhongshan Lu, just east of the intersection with Jiefang Lu, it has an ATM that takes international cards. There's another branch near the bus station by the train station.

**Internet café** (per hr Y4) Beside the Shàngyè Dàshà department store on Zhongshan Donglu, near the intersection of Jiefang Lu.

**Post and Telephone Office** (Zhōngguó Diànxin) On Dianli Lu, on the corner of Xinma Lu.

**Public Security Bureau** (PSB; Gōngānjú; 24 Shizheng Lu) Can help in case of emergencies. For visa extensions, it's best to go to Nánjīng.

### Sights

#### JINSHAN PARK 金山公园

This park (Jinshān Gōngyuán; Gold Hill Park; 62 Jinshan Xilu; admission Y50) otherwise known as 'Gold Mountain', is Zhènjiāng's leading tourist attraction. The park was once an island on the Yangzi, which slowly filled with silt over the years, forming a modest hill and narrow peninsula. Crowds flock to see the expansive Buddhist **Jinshan Temple** (Jīnshān Sì), which sits at the

base of the hill; and to visit the seven-storey, octagonal **Cishou Pagoda** (Cìshǒu Tǎ; admission Y3), reached by a flight of winding stairs to the top. The pagoda was built over 1400 years ago and restored in 1900 to celebrate the 65th birthday of the Dowager Empress Cixi.

The temple gains its name from a Zen master who is said to have come into copious amounts of gold (*jīn*) after opening the gates at the entrance of the park. There are four caves at the mount; of these **Buddhist Sea** (Fáhǎi) and **White Dragon** (Báilóng) feature in the Chinese legend *The Story of the White Snake*. To get to Jinshan Park take bus 2 to the last stop.

### JIAO MOUNTAIN 焦山

Likened to a piece of jade floating in the river, this **island** (Jiāo Shān; admission Y40; ☎ 8am-5pm), east of Zhènjiāng, is famous for its lush, mountainous scenery and beautiful views. There's good hiking here with a number of pavilions along the way to the top of the 150m-high mountain, from where **Xijiang Tower** (Xījiāng Lóu) looks out over the Yangzi. At the base of the mountain is **Dinghui Temple** (Dīnghuì Sì), an active Buddhist monastery.

To get to Jiāo Mountain take bus 4 from Zhongshan Xilu or Jiefang Lu to the terminal. From there it's a short walk and a boat ride (included in the ticket), or you can take a cable car (just north of the boat dock) to the top of the hill (Y20).

### NORTH HILL PARK 北固山公园

**North Hill Park** (Bèigù Shān Gōngyuán; 3 Dongwu Lu; admission Y20; ☎ 7am-7pm) is a green oasis in the middle of a construction zone. It's the site of **Ganlu Temple** (Gānlù Sì), which features an iron pagoda first built in the Tang dynasty. Once 13m high, the pagoda has since suffered damage from fire, lightning and overzealous Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution. Standing gracefully on top of the hill is the scenic **Soaring Clouds Pavilion** (Língyún Tíng), which commands beautiful views of the river and city below. It's on the bus 4 route.

### ZHENJIANG MUSEUM 镇江博物馆

Between Jinshan Park and the centre of town is the old British consulate, built in 1890 and now converted into a **museum** (Zhènjiāng Bówùguǎn; 85 Boxian Lu; adult/child Y20/10; ☎ 9am-noon & 2-5.30pm). The museum doesn't draw hordes of tourists and it has a great outlook over the black-tiled

roofs in the oldest section of town. It houses a fine collection of pottery, bronzes, gold and silver found in excavations around Zhènjiāng. There are English captions and the building has been nicely restored. To get there catch bus 2 from Zhongshan Lu.

It's well worth taking time to explore the old area surrounding the museum. The staircase to the east leads around to a narrow street known as Boxian Lu. A small stone pagoda, **Zhaoguang Pagoda** (Zhāoguāng Tǎ), sits above an archway and is said to date from the Yuan dynasty. There are a few antique stores and stalls here, and if you keep following the street all the way up and past the train tracks, you'll hit Changjiang Lu.

### Sleeping

**Jingkou Hotel** (Jīngkǒu Fāndiàn; ☎ 522 4866; fax 523 0056; 407 Zhongshan Donglu; 中山东路407号; d Y260-480) The rooms in this central hotel are attractively furnished and some have been recently renovated. Staff seem a bit indifferent to foreign faces and you may have to push hard for a discount.

**Zhenjiang Hotel** (Zhènjiāng Bīnguǎn; ☎ 523 3888; 92 Zhongshan Xilu; 中山西路92号; d Y420-700) Don't be fooled by the glossy lobby in this wannabe up-market hotel – rooms are average, though clean, and somewhat overpriced. However, this hotel is conveniently located near the train station.

**International Hotel** (Guójī Fāndiàn; ☎ 502 1888; fax 502 1777; 218 Jiefang Lu; 解放路218号; d Y660-730) Four-star amenities and sizeable discounts make this sky-high hotel tower a great choice. Rooms are spacious and comfortable. It's also in a handy location near the south bus station.

### Eating

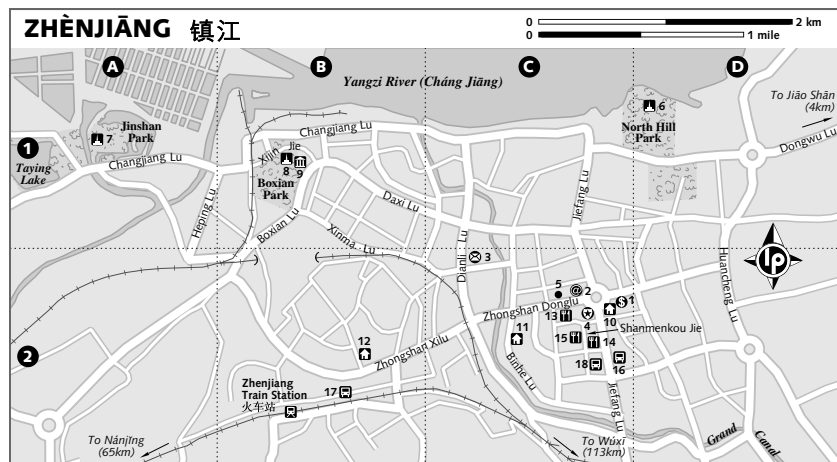
You'll find restaurants galore along the side streets off Zhongshan Donglu, west of the intersection with Jiefang Lu.

**Zuixianlóu Jiūjiǎ** (82 Shanmenkou Jie; mains from Y20; ☎ 7am-9pm) This restaurant on a crowded lane off Zhongshan Lu serves tasty noodles and dumplings at reasonable prices. It doesn't have an English menu so you'll need to consult our menu decoder (p106).

**Yanchun Jiūlóu** (87 Jiefang Lu; mains Y25-40; ☎ 11am-8pm) One of the most popular spots in town, with very good noodle and rice dishes. Try the steamed crab buns (蟹黄汤包; xièhuáng tāngbāo) with ginger and vinegar.

For cheap eats in a lively atmosphere head to the **night market** (yè shìchāng) parallel and south of Zhongshan Donglu. Things generally get lively around 6pm and last until 2am.





## Getting There & Away

### BUS

Most buses that depart from the south gate long-distance bus station (nánmén qìchēzhàn) are slow buses. Express buses leave from the express bus station (kuàikè qìchēzhàn) across the street. Buses leave for Nánjīng (Y15, 1½ hours), Shànghǎi (Y64 to Y75, 3½ hours), Wúxī (Y35, two hours) and Sūzhōu (Y51, two hours). Buses for major destinations also leave from the long-distance bus station (chángtóng qìchēzhàn) near the train station. Frequent buses leave here for Yángzhōu (Y11, one hour), which includes a short ferry ride.

### TRAIN

Zhènjiāng is on the main Nánjīng–Shànghǎi train line. It's a little over three hours to Shànghǎi (Y52) and an hour to Nánjīng (Y19). Although some of the special express trains don't stop at Zhènjiāng, there's still a choice of schedules.

Most hotels offer a train booking service. The business centre at the International Hotel will book sleepers for a Y30 service charge but it's fairly easy to book sleepers in advance at the train station.

## Getting Around

Almost all transport (local buses, pedicabs and motor-tricycles) is close to the train station. Taxis start at Y7.

Bus 2 is a convenient tour bus. It travels east from the train station along Zhongshan Lu to Jiefang Lu. It then swings west to the

museums and continues on to the terminus at Jinshan Park. Bus 4, which crosses the bus 2 route in the city centre on Jiefang Lu, runs past North Hill Park and terminates at Jiao Mountain in the east.

## YÁNGZHŌU 扬州

☎ 0514 / pop 4.46 million

Yángzhōu, near the junction of the Grand Canal and the Yangzi River, was once an economic and cultural centre of southern China. The city grew rich from the salt trade, attracting merchants and artisans from all over, who set up residences and gardens here.

Like most of China's cities, modern-day Yángzhōu has lost much of its charm to development and many of its once-thriving canals have been paved over. Nevertheless, with its wide leafy streets and beautiful gardens, it's a worthy escape from Jiāngsū's bigger centres, Nánjīng and Sūzhōu. The main tourist sight, Slender West Lake Park, is overrun with tour groups but the other places remain quiet enough. Yángzhōu has enough to keep visitors busy for a couple days or can be visited on a day trip from Nánjīng.

## Orientation

Yángzhōu's sights are concentrated around the Grand Canal in the north and northwest parts of the city, and this is where you'll find Slender West Lake and Daming Temple. It's easy to get around by foot in Yángzhōu and walking along the river that winds its way through town is quite pleasant.

INFORMATION	SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES	EATING
Bank of China 中国银行.....1 C2	Cishou Pagoda.....(see 7) Ganlu Temple 甘露寺.....6 D1	Night Market 夜市.....13 C2
Bank of China 中国银行.....(see 17)	Jinshan Temple 金山寺.....7 A1	Yànchūn Jiǔlóu 宴春酒楼.....14 C2
Internet Café 网吧.....2 C2	Zhaoguang Pagoda 昭光塔.....8 B1	Zuixiānlóu Jiǔjiā 醉仙楼酒家.....15 C2
Post & Telephone Office 中国电信.....3 C2	Zhenjiang Museum 镇江博物馆.....9 B1	
PSB 公安局.....4 C2		<b>TRANSPORT</b>
Shangye Dasha (Department Store) 商业大厦.....5 C2		Express Bus Station 快客汽车站.....16 C2
		Long-Distance Bus Station
		长途汽车站.....17 B2
		South Gate Long-Distance Bus Station 南门汽车站.....18 C2
	<b>SLEEPING</b>	
	International Hotel 国际饭店.....10 C2	
	Jingkou Hotel 京口饭店.....11 C2	
	Zhenjiang Hotel 镇江宾馆.....12 B2	

## Information

**Bank of China** (Zhōngguó Yínháng; 279 Wenchang Zhonglu) Will change travellers cheques and cash. The ATM takes international cards.

**No 1 People's Hospital** (Yángzhōu Shì Dìyī Rénmín Yīyuàn; 45 Taizhou Lu) Head here if you need medical attention.

**Post Office** (Yóujú; 162 Wenchang Zhonglu) Conveniently located in the town centre.

**Public Security Bureau** (PSB; Gōngānjū; 1 Huaihai Lu) Can help with visa extensions.

[www.travelchinaguide.com/cityguides/jiangsu/yangzhou/](http://www.travelchinaguide.com/cityguides/jiangsu/yangzhou/) Provides facts and history about Yángzhōu.

**Yangzhou Tourist Information Service Centre** (Yángzhōu Lǚxíngshè; 10 Fengle Shangjie; ☎ 9am–5pm) For train and air tickets.

## Sights

### SLENDER WEST LAKE PARK 瘦西湖公园

**Slender West Lake** (Shòu Xī Hú; 28 Da Hongqiao Lu; admission Y80 includes He, Ge & Potted Plant Garden; ☎ 6.30am–6pm) has been a popular tourist outing since the 3rd century AD and was a favourite vacationing spot of Emperor Qianlong in the 18th century. Stretching noodle-like northwards from Da Hongqiao Lu towards Daming Temple, the lake is similar to its chubbier cousin the West Lake in Hángzhōu, with pretty willow-lined banks dotted with pavilions and gardens. One highlight is the exquisite triple-arched **Five Pavilion Bridge** (Wútíng Qiáo), built in 1757, which straddles a lotus pond teeming with fat, happy goldfish.

Another interesting structure is the **24 Bridge** (Èrshísī Qiáo), its back arched high enough to almost form a complete circle, allowing boats easy passage. Near the bridge is Emperor Qianlong's fishing platform – supposedly, local divers used to put fish on the emperor's hook so he'd think the town was lucky and provide them with more funding.

There's an entrance on Da Hongqiao Lu and another entrance at the Five Pavilion Bridge on bus route 5 from Wenhe Lu.

## GE GARDEN 个园

This **garden** (Gè Yuán; 10 Yanfu Donglu; ☎ 8am–6pm), east of the city centre, is typical of a southern-style garden, with heaps of weirdly shaped rocks, pavilions and lotus ponds. Built in 1883, it was once the home of the painter Shi Tao and was later acquired by an affluent salt merchant.

If you enjoy Chinese gardens, this one will delight, with its crooked pathways, dense bamboo groves and humpback bridges. It's a little out of the way, but worth visiting. Bus 1 from Yanfan Xilu stops nearby on Nantong Donglu.

## HE GARDEN 何园

This tiny **garden** (Hé Yuán; 77 Xuningmen Jie; ☎ 7.30am–6pm) in the south of town was built by a Qing dynasty salt merchant as his garden residence. It boasts more buildings than actual garden, with airy pavilions and halls surrounded by tree-lined pathways, bamboo and convoluted rockery. There are also some relaxing tea-houses hidden among the shrubs and trees.

## YANGZHOU POTTED PLANT GARDEN

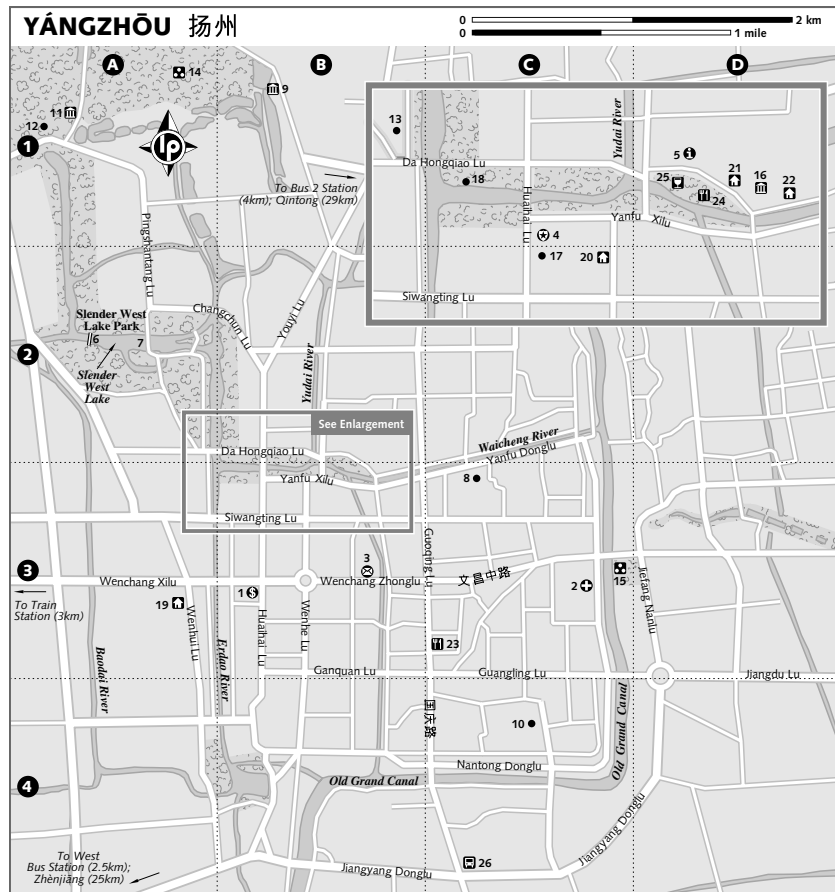
### 扬州盆景园

Don't be put off by the name. This **garden** (Yángzhōu Pénjǐng Yuán; 12 Youyi Lu; ☎ 7am–6pm) offers a quiet escape along a small canal dotted with birds and blossoms, archways, bridges, pavilions and a marble boat. There are hundreds of bonsai-style potted plants on display as well as a **bonsai museum**. The entrance fee is steep, but is well worth the price and a must for garden-lovers.

## CANALS

Yángzhōu once had 24 stone bridges spanning its network of canals. Although the modern bridges are concrete, they still offer good vantage points to view canal life.

As the Grand Canal actually passes a little to the east of Yángzhōu, you might like to



investigate the environs a short way out of town. The bus 2 station in the northeast is a boat dock on the river. Buses 4 and 9 run over a bridge on the canal. There are also two ship locks to the south of Yángzhōu.

#### DAMING TEMPLE 大明寺

This **temple** (Dà míng Sì; 1 Pingshantang Lu; admission ¥35; ☎ 7.30am-5pm) is packed with crowds on weekends and holidays. Standing on a hill in the northwest of the city, it's been an important centre for Buddhism since ancient times. Founded more than 1000 years ago, the complex was subsequently destroyed and rebuilt. Then it was destroyed right down to its foundations during the Taiping Rebellion; what you see today is a 1934 reconstruction. The

nine-storey **Qiling Pagoda** (Qiling Tǎ) nearby was completed in 1996.

The original temple is credited to the Tang dynasty monk Jian Zhen, who was a true jack-of-all-trades, studying sculpture, architecture, fine arts and medicine, as well as Buddhism. In AD 742 two Japanese monks invited him to Japan for missionary work, which turned out to be mission impossible – Jian Zhen made five attempts to get there, failing due to storms. On the fifth attempt he ended up in Hainán. On the sixth trip, aged 66, he finally arrived.

Jian Zhen stayed in Japan for 10 years and died there in AD 763. Later, the Japanese made a lacquer statue of him, which was sent to Yángzhōu in 1980.

#### INFORMATION

Bank of China 中国银行	1 B3
No. 1 People's Hospital	
扬州市第一人民医院	2 C3
Post Office 邮电局	3 B3
PSB 公安局	4 C1
Yangzhou Tourist Information Service Centre	
扬州旅行社	5 D1

#### SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

24 Bridge	6 A2
Daming Temple 大明寺	(see 12)
Five Pavilion Bridge 五亭桥	7 A2
Ge Garden 个园	8 C3

Han Dynasty Tomb Museum	9 B1
汉墓博物馆	
He Garden 何园	10 C4
扬州市第一人民医院	11 A1
Pingshan Hall 平山堂	(see 13)
Qiling Pagoda 瘦西湖	12 A1
Slender West Lake Entrance	
瘦西湖	13 B1
Tang City Wall 唐城遗址	14 A1
Tomb of Puhading 普哈丁墓园	15 C3
Yangzhou City Museum 扬州市博物馆	16 D1
Yangzhou Eight Eccentrics Memorial 扬州八怪纪念馆	17 C2
扬州盆景园	18 C1

#### SLEEPING

Grand Metropole Hotel 扬州京华大酒店	19 A3
Lantian Hotel 蓝天大厦	20 C2
Xiyuan Hotel 西园饭店	21 D1
Yangzhou Hotel 扬州宾馆	22 D1

#### EATING

Fuchun Chashe 富春茶社	23 C3
Yéchūn Huāyuán 迎春花园	24 D1

#### DRINKING

Cellar Bar 赛乐酒吧	25 D1
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#### TRANSPORT

Long-Distance Bus Station 扬州汽车站	26 C4
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Near the temple is **Pingshan Hall** (Pingshān Táng), the former residence of the Song dynasty writer and former governor of Yángzhōu, Ouyang Xiu. The building itself dates from the Qing dynasty. A **Martyrs' Shrine** (Lièshì Língyuán) is also nearby.

To the east of Daming Temple you'll find the ruins of the **Tang city wall** (Táng Chéng Yízhì; admission ¥15), where archaeologists have discovered remnants of bone carvings, ceramics and jade; and the **Han Dynasty Tomb Museum** (Hàn mù Bōwùguǎn; 16 Xiangbie Lu; admission ¥30; ☎ 8.30am-4.30pm), which has some interesting exhibits (in Chinese) of artefacts excavated around Yángzhōu.

You can reach Daming Temple by taking bus 5 along Wenhe Lu to the last stop. The temple is a short walk north of here.

#### TOMB OF PUHADING 普哈丁墓园

This is the **tomb** (Púhādīng Mùyuán; 17 Jiefang Nanlu) of the Muslim teacher and scholar Puhading, who died in Yángzhōu in 1275. Believed to be a descendent of the Prophet, Puhading came to China during the Yuan dynasty to spread the Muslim faith. Within the grounds is a mosque but casual visitors are only allowed to enter the grounds from 6am to noon, and you need special permission to visit the tomb. It's on the eastern bank of a canal on the bus 2 route.

#### YANGZHOU CITY MUSEUM 扬州市博物馆

This excellent **museum** (Yángzhōu Shì Bōwùguǎn; 2 Fenge Shanglu; admission free; ☎ 8am-5pm) is in a temple originally dedicated to Shi Kefa, a Ming dynasty official who refused to succumb to his new Qing masters and was executed.

On display are several large wooden coffins dating to the Han and Northern Song

dynasties, a 1000-year-old wooden boat and a Han dynasty jade funeral suit. Inside the grounds, the museum is surrounded by a curio market.

#### YANGZHOU EIGHT ECCENTRICS MEMORIAL 扬州八怪纪念馆

This **memorial** (Yángzhōu Bāguài Jiniànguǎn; Huaihai Lu; admission ¥15; ☎ 8am-6pm) has examples of paintings and calligraphy by Yángzhōu's 'eight eccentrics', a group of Qing painters considered so peculiar by authorities they were excluded from exhibiting in the imperial collection. They were deemed eccentric because of their nonconventional painting techniques and use of bold and uncontrolled brush strokes in their paintings. The eccentrics included the artists Gao Qiwei (1672-1734) who painted with his hands and Hua Yan (1682-1786) whose paintings of squirrels now hang in the Palace Museum in Běijīng.

#### Tours

Tour buses 1 and 5 leave from the West Bus Station and circle all the sights.

#### Festivals & Events

The **Qintong Boat Festival** is held from 4 to 6 April every year in Qīntóng (溱潼), a small town outside of Yángzhōu. Folk dances are staged on boats from surrounding fishing villages. The boat races attract both Chinese and international tourists.

#### Sleeping

Yángzhōu's accommodation isn't cheap and there are no true budget hotels. Weekday discounts cut prices in half, though you'll need to remind staff at the front desk.

**Xiyuan Hotel** (Xiyuán Fàndiàn; ☎ 780 7888; fax 723 3870; www.xiyuan-hotel.com; 1 Fengle Shanglu; 丰乐上路1号; s Y488, d Y280-388) This enormous hotel, set back from the canal, was once the site of Emperor Qianlong's imperial villa. Rooms are tastefully designed and pleasing, though don't expect the royal treatment – service is definitely on the chilly side.

**Lantian Hotel** (Lántiān Dàshà; ☎ 736 0000; fax 731 4101; 159 Wenhe Beilu; 文河北路159号; d Y360-480, tr Y460-560) Very centrally located, this upbeat place offers a choice of decent-quality rooms in a convenient location. It even has its own bowling alley if you happen to get tired of sightseeing.

**Yangzhou Hotel** (Yángzhōu Bīnguǎn; ☎ 734 2611; fax 734 3599; 5 Fengle Shanglu; 丰乐上路5号; s/d Y480/580) Next door to the Xiyuan and the Yangzhou Museum, this high-rise hotel has friendly management and neat, airy rooms. There are 40% discounts on weekdays.

**Grand Metropole Hotel** (Yángzhōu Jīnghuá Dàjiūdiàn; ☎ 732 3888; 1 Wenchang Xilu; 文昌西路1号; d Y700-800) One of the fanciest places in town, this four-star tower has bright, comfortable rooms with good-size bathrooms and attentive staff. It's about a 10-minute walk from the city centre.

## Eating

Yangzhou's most famous culinary export is Yangzhou fried rice (扬州炒饭; *Yángzhōu chǎofàn*) and, as most travellers who have tried it will confirm, it tastes just like fried rice. Along Da Hongqiao Lu, leading to the entrance to Slender West Lake Park, are a string of small restaurants selling fried rice and other dishes. You should be able to fill up here for under Y20.

**Yechun Huayuan** (☎ 734 2932; 10 Fengle Xialu; mains Y10-30; ☎ 7-11.30am & 5-9pm) Close to the Yangzhou Museum, this popular restaurant has excellent dim sum as well as noodle and rice dishes. It's tucked away on a tiny lane next to the canal.

**Fuchun Chashè** (☎ 723 3326; 35 Desheng Qiao; mains Y10-30; ☎ 8am-9pm) One of Yangzhou's most famous teahouses, this place is on a lane just off Guoqing Lu, in an older section of town. Try an assorted plate of its famous dumplings for Y30.

Yangzhou's hotels offer opportunities to try local cuisine in more formal surroundings. The Xiyuan Hotel has a noteworthy restaurant, known for its seafood.

## Drinking

Yangzhou's nightlife is pretty tepid, though there are a few bars strung along the canal near the Yangzhou City Museum that cater to young locals and foreigners

**Cellar Bar** (Sàilè Jiǔbā; 8 Fengle Shangjie; drinks Y30; ☎ open late) This mellow place is a favourite with the locals, with cool retro décor, pool tables and lounge seating. It's especially popular on weekends and a great place to wind down.

## Shopping

Yangzhou's main shopping drag is on Wenchang Lu, with shopping plazas and international clothing stores. For cheaper items, head to the older section of town near the Fuchun Chashè restaurant. There's a line-up of souvenir shops along the canal near the Yangzhou City Museum where you can buy sandalwood fans, reproductions of paintings and ceramics.

## Getting There & Away

The nearest airport is located in Nanjing. Shuttle buses make the trip from larger hotels. There are trains to Guangzhou (Y219, 27 hours) that pass through Nanjing, and Huangshan. Trains to Shanghai (Y97, six hours) pass through Nanjing, Zhenjiang, Wuxi and Suzhou.

From the Yangzhou long-distance bus station south of the city centre there are buses to different points in Shanghai (Y58 to Y70, 4½ hours) and Hangzhou (Y75 to Y90, five hours) and Suzhou (Y62, three hours). Buses to Nanjing (Y26, two hours) and Zhenjiang (Y12, one hour) depart from the west bus station, southwest of the city. Buses cross over the Yangzi by ferry.

## Getting Around

Most of the main sights are at the edge of town. Taxis are cheap and start at Y7; the smaller taxis are Y6. The area from the southern entrance of Slender West Lake Park on Da Hongqiao Lu to the City Museum can easily be covered on foot and it's a pleasant walk.

Bus 8 runs from the west bus station to the long-distance bus station, and then makes its way up Guoqing Lu to the north of the city. Bus 5 takes you from the long-distance bus station to Huaihai Lu, Youyi Lu then terminates near Daming Temple.

## WUXI 无锡

☎ 0510 / pop 4.3 million

Once prosperous due to its fortuitous position on the Grand Canal, Wuxi has lost much of its former glory and now takes a backseat to more attractive canal towns, such as Suzhou and Yangzhou. Modern-day Wuxi is smoggy and characterless, with little to recommend it. Most people use the city as a base for exploring the more pleasing shores of Lake Tai.

## Orientation

The city centre is ringed by Jiefang Lu. The train station and the long-distance bus station are only about a 10-minute walk north of Jiefang Beilu. A network of canals, including

the Grand Canal, cuts through the city. Lake Tai is about 5km from the city centre.

## Information

**Bank of China** (Zhōngguó Yínháng; 258 Zhongshan Nanlu; ☎ 9am-5.30pm) Changes travellers cheques and major currency. The ATM here takes international cards.

**China Telecom** (☎ 7.30am-11.30pm) At the western end of the post office.

**Post Office** (Yóujú; Renmin Zhonglu) Close to the Bank of China.

**Public Security Bureau** (PSB; Gōngānjú; ☎ 270 5678 ext 2215; 54 Chongning Lu) Takes care of visa problems.

**Wuxi Nanzhan Hospital** (Wúxī Nánzhàn Yiyuǎn; 97 Tangnan Lu) This hospital has good facilities and is centrally located.



### INFORMATION

Bank of China 中国银行 ..... 1 C2  
China Telecom ..... (see 2)  
中国电信 ..... (see 2)  
CTS 中国旅行社 ..... (see 7)  
Post Office 市邮电局 ..... 2 C2  
PSB 公安局 ..... 3 C2

### SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Longguang Pagoda  
龙光塔 ..... 4 A2

### SLEEPING

New World Courtyard Marriott ..... 5 C2  
Hotel 新世界万怡酒店 ..... 5 C2  
Wuxi International Youth Hostel  
无锡国际青年旅舍 ..... 6 C2  
Zhonglu Hotel 中旅大酒店 ..... 7 C1

### EATING

Lóushànglóu Miànguǎn  
楼上楼面馆 ..... 8 C2  
Wangxingji 王兴记 ..... 9 C3

### SHOPPING

Wuxi Shangye Dasha  
无锡商业大厦 ..... 10 C2

### TRANSPORT

Hubin Wharf (Ferry to Grand Canal) 湖滨码头 ..... 11 B3  
Long-Distance Bus Station  
无锡汽车站 ..... 12 C1  
West Bus Station  
无锡汽车站 ..... 13 B3



**Wuxi Provincial Government** (www.wuxi.gov.cn)  
Information on Wúxī.

## Sights

The city of Wúxī has very few tourist attractions, though some of its parks are pleasant enough. The nicest by far is **Xihui Park** (Xīhuì Gōngyuán; Huìhe Lu; admission ¥45; ☎ 8am–6pm). The highest point in the park is West Hill (Xī Shān), 75m above sea level. If you climb **Longguang Pagoda** (Lóngguāng Tǎ), the seven-storey octagonal structure at the top of the hill, you will be able to take in a panorama of Wúxī and Lake Tai. The brick-and-wood pagoda was built during the Ming dynasty, burned down during the Qing dynasty and rebuilt years later. For an even greater view, take the cable car, included in the admission price, which is located 1km inside the park at Hui Hill (Huì Shān).

## Sleeping

Wúxī's hotels mainly fall into the midrange category, though there are a few budget options. Hotels are plentiful around the train station, though some serve as brothels. Be careful in this area at night as it's full of dodgy characters.

**Wuxi International Youth Hostel** (Wúxī Guójiā Qīngnián Lúshè; ☎ 8275 5990; fax 8273 5427; 49 Renmin Zhonglu; 人民中路49号; s/d/tr per person ¥90/55/50) This clean, friendly hostel is the best budget option in overpriced Wúxī. All rooms have shared washing facilities. Take bus K10 from the train station and get off at Dongmen station.

**Zhonglu Hotel** (Zhōnglù Dàjiūdiàn; ☎ 868 9928; 88 Chezhan Lu; 车站路88号; d ¥480–628) Directly across from the train station, this hotel is managed by CTS and is a good place to stay if you need to catch an early bus or train. Rooms can be noisy so ask for one in the back.

**New World Courtyard Marriott Hotel** (Xīn Shìjiè Wányí Jiūdiàn; ☎ 276 2888; www.courtyard.com; 335 Zhongshan Lu; 中山路335号; d ¥996–1160) This is the top choice for upmarket rooms right in the centre of things. All rooms include breakfast and are often discounted up to 40%. The hotel also has a helpful ticket office with English-speaking staff.

## Eating

It's impossible to go hungry in Wúxī; the best places to find food are around the train station and along Zhongshan Lu.

**Lòushànglóu Miànguān** (61Tongyun Lu; mains ¥5–10; ☎ 24hrs) This large, noisy restaurant has incredibly cheap noodle and rice dishes and is a popular place for lunchtime workers. You'll find more substantial meals on the 2nd floor at higher prices.

**Wángxīngjì** (221 Zhongshan Nanlu; mains ¥10–20; ☎ 7am–8pm) Close to the city centre, this is a long-established Wúxī restaurant that's famous for wonton soup (馄饨; *húntun*) and delicious steamed dumplings filled with meat or seafood (小笼包; *xiǎolóngbāo*) for ¥8.

## Shopping

Silk products and embroidery are good buys. Also look out for the ugly clay figurines known as Hui Shān Nírén. A local folk art, the figurines take many forms and shapes, but are most commonly modelled after famous opera stars. The models of obese infants are symbols of fortune and happiness. You can find these along with other souvenirs at the **Wúxī Shàngyè Dàshà** (343 Zhongshan Lu), a large department store in the central part of town.

## Getting There & Away

Most long-distance buses depart from the long-distance bus station next to the train station. The west bus station is on Liangqing Lu but has fewer services. Frequent buses to Yíxīng (¥10, 1½ hours) leave from both the long-distance and west bus stations. For Dīngshān change buses in Yíxīng.

From the long-distance bus station, direct buses go to Shànghǎi (¥40, two hours), Sūzhōu (¥18, 45 minutes) and Nánjīng (¥55, 2½ hours).

Wúxī is on the Běijīng–Shànghǎi train line and has frequent services. There are trains to Sūzhōu (¥12, 30 minutes), Shànghǎi (¥31, 1½ hours) and Nánjīng (¥25, two hours) every two hours or so.

CTS books sleepers for a ¥30 service charge but there are numerous ticket agents around the long-distance bus station that book train tickets. There's also a ticket office next to the Zhonglu Hotel.

Overnight passenger boats travel between Wúxī and Hángzhōu on the Grand Canal. Departure is at 5.30pm from the wharf off Hubin Lu. You can book tickets at the wharf. Two-person cabins are ¥114 per person and four-person cabins are ¥82 per person. The trip takes 13 hours.

## Getting Around

It's fairly easy getting around Wúxī by bus. Bus 2 runs from the train station, along Jiefang Lu and across two bridges to Xihui Park. Bus 201 heads from the train station down Zhongshan Lu to the city centre. The Wúxī sightseeing bus is very useful, stopping at all major sights. It has no number, but it's in the first row of buses to the right as you exit the train station. Tickets are ¥3 or ¥2 depending on the distance.

Taxis start at ¥8.

## LAKE TAI 太湖

Lake Tai is a freshwater lake dotted with some 90 islands, and features abundant plant and animal life. Surrounded by rolling hills and tea fields, it's been a popular tourist destination for the Chinese since the early 20th century. The lake is also famous for its strangely eroded rocks, a staple of traditional Chinese gardens. The northern part of the lake, which includes Turtle Head Isle, is easily visited from Wúxī, while the southeastern shores include the more rural areas of Dōngshān and Xīshān, both accessible on a day trip from Sūzhōu. On the west side of the lake is Yíxīng County and the pottery centre of Dīngshān.

## Sights & Activities

**Turtle Head Isle** (Yuán Tóuzhǔ; adult/child ¥70/35; ☎ 6.30am–6pm) is not actually an island, but a peninsula, and is thought to resemble a turtle's head poking up out of the water. The island is quite pretty, though recent construction has taken away some of its allure. The park contains a number of pavilions and teahouses where you can idle away a few hours. Tour buses (included in the admission price), can take you around the lake or you can hop on an electric cart for ¥10.

The entrance at the southern end of the park is just north of the **Baojie Bridge** (Bǎojiè Qiáo). This end of the park is peaceful with a lovely narrow road leading up to the **Brightness Pavilion** (Guāngmíng Tíng), the highest point of Turtle Head Isle, offering all-round vistas. The northern end of the park has souvenir stalls and the **Perpetual Spring Bridge** (Chángchūn Qiáo), which leads across a small pond to a rocky vantage point on the lake. Here, there's also a pier with ferries (included in admission) to **Sānshān** (Three Hills Isle), once a bandit's hideaway. Vantage points at the top look back towards Turtle Head Isle, so you can work

out if it really does look like a turtle head. The islands have a number of pavilions and temples as well as three large Buddha statues, the smallest measuring 16m high.

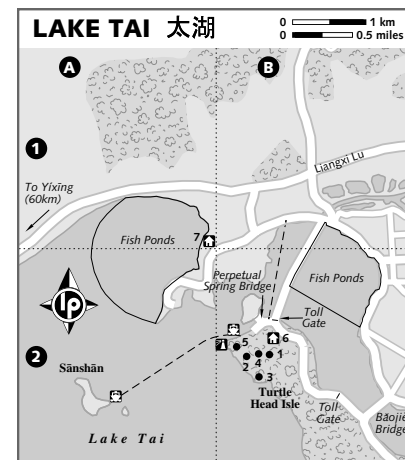
On the southern end of Turtle Head Isle are three amusement parks, **Tang Dynasty World** (Táng Chāo Jīngqū; admission ¥30), **Three Kingdoms World** (Sān Guó Jīngqū; admission ¥35) and **Water Margin World** (Shuǐhú Jīngqū; admission ¥35), set up by Wuxi Film Studios. These replica cities were built to film TV dramas based on famous historical novels. A visit to one of these parks offers some tacky fun.

## Sleeping

Hotels by Lake Tai offer upmarket rooms in peaceful surroundings.

**Taihu Hotel** (Tàihú Fàndiàn; ☎ 551 7888; Yonggu Lu; 永固路; d ¥498–808) Located on top of a hill overlooking the lake, this five-star hotel has elegantly furnished rooms, some with views. The restaurants and amenities are excellent and worth the price.

**Lakeview Park Resort Hotel** (Tàihú Huāyuán Dūjiācūn; ☎ 555 5888; 8 Shanshui Donglu; 山水东路8号;



### SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Brightness Pavilion 光福塔	1	B2
Clear Ripples Hall 澄澜堂	2	B2
Tang Dynasty World 唐朝景区	3	B2
Three Kingdoms World 三国景区	4	B2
Water Margin World 水滸景区	5	B2

### SLEEPING

Lakeview Park Resort Hotel 太湖花园度假村	6	B2
Taihu Hotel 太湖饭店	7	A1

Y700-1000) This hotel has good-quality rooms and friendly management. Surroundings are not as nice as the Taihu Hotel, however, and you're a good distance from the lake on an isolated stretch of road.

### Eating

Out by the lake, you have few eating options. There are restaurants at the northern end of the pier and all hotels have restaurants. At the **Clear Ripples Hall** (Chénglán Tǎng) teahouse, you can enjoy some tea while viewing the lake.

### Getting There & Away

Bus 82 goes to Baojie Bridge from the train station in Wúxī. The Wúxī sightseeing bus goes to the northern entrance from the train station.

### YÍXING COUNTY 宜兴县

Yíxing County (Yíxing Xiàn) is famous for its tea utensils, particularly pots. Delicious tea can be made in an aged Yíxing teapot simply by adding hot water, or so they say. The potteries of Yíxing, especially in Dingshān, are a popular excursion for Chinese tourists but see few foreign visitors.

### Dingshān 丁山

☎ 0510 / pop 100,000

Dingshān is the pottery centre of Yíxing County and has enjoyed that reputation since the Qin and Han dynasties; some of the scenes here, especially at the loading dock that leads into Lake Tai, are timeless.

Almost every local family is engaged in the manufacture of ceramics and at least half of the houses are made of the stuff. It's extremely dusty here (and probably not recommended for people with respiratory problems). Everywhere you look vehicles are hauling rocks from the mountains outside of town.

Dingshān, located about 20km south of Yíxing town, has two dozen ceramics factories producing more than 2000 varieties of pottery – quite an output for a population of 100,000. Among the products made here are the ceramic tables and garbage bins you'll see around China, jars that are used to store oil and grain, the famed Yíxing teapots, as well as glazed tiling and ceramic frescoes that are desperately needed as spare parts for tourist attractions – the Forbidden City

in Běijīng is a customer. The ornamental rocks you see in Chinese gardens are also produced here.

Outside of Dingshān, the **Ceramics Museum** (宜兴陶瓷博物馆; Yíxing Táocǐ Bówùguǎn; 150 Dingshan Beilu; admission Y20; ☎ 7.30am-4.30pm) displays examples of Yíxing pottery from 6000 years ago to the present day. Nearby workshops have ceramic artisans at work.

### SLEEPING

It's easy to visit this area on a day trip from Wúxī but you can also stay overnight.

**Yíxing Guóji Fàndiàn** (宜兴国际饭店; ☎ 791 6888; 52 Tongzhenguan Lu; 通贞观路 52号; s Y300-420, d Y360-580) This high-rise hotel has a choice of rooms and prices. Rooms are all varying shades of dull brown but nonetheless clean and spacious. Management can help you arrange trips to Dingshān.

### SHOPPING

If you've taken the trouble to get here, don't leave without buying some pottery. There's a lot of variety, not just the standard Yíxing style, and it's very cheap. The best place to go is a huge **pottery market** (lóngxī táocǐ shìchǎng; ☎ 7.30am-7pm), across the highway from the Ceramics Museum. There are a number of stores and small stalls with literally tonnes of pottery. Mid-size teapots range in price from Y20 to Y300 and make terrific gifts.

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

Frequent buses leave from Wúxī's long-distance bus station to Yíxing (Y15, 1½ hours). From Yíxing minibuses go back and forth to Dingshān (Y6, 20 minutes).

### SŪZHŌU 苏州

☎ 0512 / pop 5.71 million

Marco Polo once declared that Sūzhōu was one of the most beautiful cities in China (though Hángzhōu was better). While Polo's Sūzhōu was a charming merchant town of whitewashed houses, tree-lined canals and sumptuous gardens, modern Sūzhōu is a bustling city surrounded by factories and high rises. It takes some work to find the charm under the city's glossy veneer, but it's there.

Sūzhōu's main draw is its gardens. There were originally over a hundred but now only a handful exist, some over a thousand years old. The gardens, a symphonic combination of rocks, water, trees and buildings, reflect

the Chinese appreciation of balance and harmony. You could easily spend an enjoyable several days exploring the gardens, paying a visit to the excellent Silk Museum and exploring some of Sūzhōu's surviving canals, pagodas and humpbacked bridges.

### History

Dating back some 2500 years, Sūzhōu is one of the oldest towns in the Yangzi Basin. With the completion of the Grand Canal during the Sui dynasty, Sūzhōu found itself strategically located on a major trading route, and the city's fortunes and size grew rapidly.

Sūzhōu flourished as a centre of shipping and grain storage, bustling with merchants and artisans. By the 12th century the town had attained its present dimensions. The city walls, a rectangle enclosed by moats, were pierced by six gates (north, south, two in the east and two in the west). Crisscrossing the city were six canals running north to south and 14 canals running east to west. Although the walls have largely disappeared and a fair proportion of the canals have been plugged, central Sūzhōu retains some of its 'Renaissance' character.

By the 14th century, Sūzhōu had established itself as China's leading silk-producing city. Aristocrats, pleasure-seekers, famous scholars, actors and painters were drawn to the place, constructing villas and garden retreats for themselves as they came.

At the height of Sūzhōu's development in the 16th century, the gardens, large and small, numbered more than 100. The town's winning tourist formula – and its image as a 'Garden City' or a 'Venice of the East' – was created out of its medieval mix of woodblock guilds and embroidery societies, whitewashed housing, cobbled streets, tree-lined avenues and canals. Sūzhōu's reputation was boosted by the reputation of its women as the most beautiful in China, largely thanks to the mellifluous local accent, and was sealed with the famous proverb 'In heaven there is paradise, on earth Sūzhōu and Hángzhōu'.

Under the Ming and Qing, the silk industry continued to flourish, with large sheds housing thousands of workers in wretched conditions. Protests were common, with silk workers staging violent strikes as early as the 15th century. In 1860 Taiping troops took the town without a blow and in 1896 Sūzhōu was opened to foreign trade, with Japanese and other international concessions. Since

1949, most parts of the city, including the city walls have been largely demolished, and it's uncertain how much of this once-beautiful city will remain in the future.

### Orientation

Besides the numerous small canals, Sūzhōu is surrounded by a large, rectangular outer canal (Waicheng River, or Waichéng Hé). The main thoroughfare, Renmin Lu, bisects the city into western and eastern halves, while a large canal cuts across the middle. The train and main bus stations are at the northern end of town, on the north side of the outer canal. A large boat dock and another long-distance bus station are at the southern end.

### MAPS

The **Xinhua Bookshop** (Xīnhuá Shūdiàn; 164 Guanqian Jie; ☎ 9am-10pm), next to the Temple of Mystery, sells a variety of English- and Chinese-language maps of Sūzhōu.

### Information

CITS (Zhōngguó Guóji Lǚxíngshè) has branches next to the train ticket office, beside the Lexiang Hotel and inside the Suzhou Hotel.

**Bank of China** (Zhōngguó Yínháng; 1450 Renmin Lu) Changes travellers cheques and foreign cash. There are ATMs that take international cards at most larger branches of the Bank of China. Major tourist hotels also have foreign-exchange counters.

**Internet cafés** Head to Shiquan Jie, where most places charge Y2 to Y3 an hour.

**No. 1 Hospital** (Sūlǐfū Yīyuàn; 96 Shizi Jie) One of many hospitals around town if you need medical assistance.

**Post Office** (Yóujú) It's on the corner of Renmin Lu and Jingde Lu.

**Public Security Bureau** (PSB; Gōngānjú; ☎ 6522 5661 ext 20593; 1149 Renmin Lu) Can help with emergencies and visa problems. The visa office is about 200m down a lane called Dashitou Xiang.

[www.chinavista.com/suzhou/home.html](http://www.chinavista.com/suzhou/home.html) For general background information on tourist sites in Suzhou.

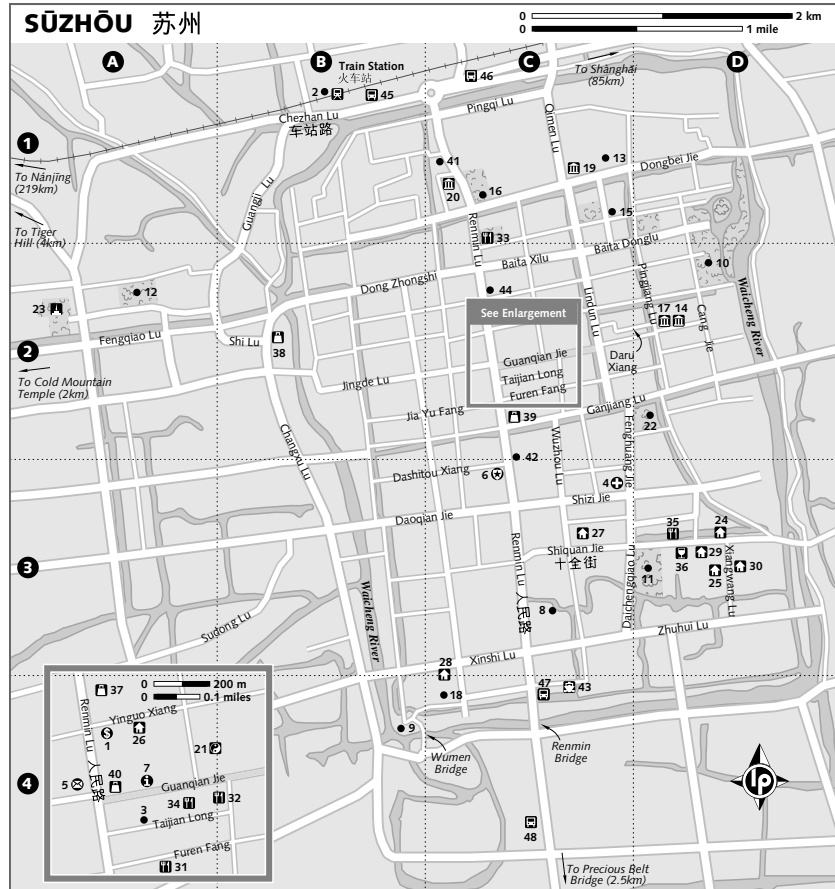
### Sights & Activities

Children under 1.2m get in for half-price to all gardens and into other sights for free. Peak season prices listed are applicable from March to early May, and September to October

### GARDEN OF THE MASTER OF THE NETS

网师园

Off Shiquan Jie, this pocket-sized **garden** (Wǎngshī Yuán; off-peak/peak Y20/30; ☎ 8am-5pm), the



smallest in Sūzhōu, is considered one of the best preserved gardens in the city. It was laid out in the 12th century, went to seed and later restored in the 18th century as part of the home of a retired official turned fisherman (thus the name). The eastern part of the garden is the residential area – originally with side rooms for sedan-chair lackeys, guest reception and living quarters. The central section is the main garden. The western section is an inner garden where a courtyard contains the **Spring Rear Cottage** (Diànchūn Yì), the master's study. This section, including the study with its Ming-style furniture and palace lanterns, was duplicated and unveiled at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in 1981.

The most striking feature of this garden is its use of space: the labyrinth of courtyards, with windows framing other parts of the garden, is ingeniously designed to give the illusion of a much larger area.

There are two ways to the entry gate, with English signs and souvenir stalls marking the way: you can enter from the alley on Shiquan Jie or an alley off Daichengqiao Lu. Music performances are put on for tourists in the evening (p308).

#### GARDEN TO LINGER IN 留园

The three-hectare **Garden to Linger In** (Liú Yuán; 79 Liuyuan Lu; admission off-peak/peak Y30/40; ☎ 7.30am–5pm) is one of the largest gardens in Sūzhōu. It was originally built in the Ming dynasty by a doc-

INFORMATION		Suzhou Silk Museum		DRINKING ☑	
Bank of China 中国银行	1 A4	丝绸博物馆	20 C1	West Street Bar 西街酒廊	36 D3
CITS 中国国际旅行社	2 B1	Temple of Mystery			
CITS 中国国际旅行社	3 A4	玄妙观	21 A4	<b>SHOPPING ☑</b>	
CITS 中国国际旅行社	(see 29)	Twin Pagodas 双塔	22 D2	Dōngwú Sīchóu Shāngdiàn	
No 1 Hospital 苏大附一院	4 C3	West Garden Temple		东吴丝绸商店	37 A4
Post Office 邮局	5 A4			Night Market 石路夜市	38 B2
PSB 公安局	6 C3			Suzhou Antique and Curio	
Xinhua Bookstore 新华书店	7 A4			Store 苏州文物商店	39 C2
		<b>SLEEPING ☑</b>		Suzhou Food Centre	40 A4
		Dongwu Hotel			
		东吴饭店	24 D3		
<b>SIGHTS &amp; ACTIVITIES</b>		Gusu Hotel 姑苏饭店	25 D3	<b>TRANSPORT</b>	
Blue Wave Pavilion 沧浪亭	8 C3	Hanting Hotel 汉庭酒店	26 A4	Bicycle Rental 自行车店	41 C1
Coiled Gate 盘门	9 B4	Nanlin Hotel 南林饭店	27 C3	China Eastern Airlines	
Couple's Garden 耦园	10 D2	Sheraton Suzhou Hotel & Towers	28 C3	东方航空公司	42 C2
Garden of the Master of the Nets		Suzhou Joycome Grand Hotel	28 C3	Grand Canal Boat Ticket	
网师园	11 D3	Suzhou Hotel 苏州饭店	29 D3	Office 售票处	43 C4
Garden to Linger In 留园	12 A2	Suzhou Youth Hostel		Grand Canal Boats 轮船码头	(see 43)
Humble Administrator's Garden		苏州青年旅店	30 D3	Lianhe Ticket Centre	
拙政园	13 C1			联合售票处	44 C2
Kunqu Opera Museum		<b>EATING ☑</b>		7&7	31 A4
戏曲博物馆	14 D2	Déyuélóu 得月楼	32 B4	Local Buses 当地汽车	45 B1
Lion's Grove Garden 狮子林	15 C1	Mario's Pizza Ristorante Bar		North Long-Distance	
North Temple Pagoda		Caffe	33 C1	Bus Station 汽车北站	46 C1
北寺塔	16 C1	Sōnghé Lóu 松鹤楼	34 A4	South Long-Distance	
Pingtan Museum 评弹博物馆	17 D2	Yángyáng Shuǐjiǎoguǎn	35 D3	Bus Station 汽车南站	47 C4
Ruigang Pagoda 瑞光塔	18 C4	洋洋水饺馆		Wuxian Long-Distance Bus	
Suzhou Museum 苏州博物馆	19 C1			Station	48 C4

tor who wanted to give his patients a relaxing place to recover from illness.

The winding corridors are inlaid with calligraphy from celebrated masters, their windows and doorways opening onto curiously shaped rockeries, ponds and dense bamboo gardens. Stone tablets hang from the walls with inscriptions written by patients who recorded their impressions of the place. In the northeast section of the garden, there's a gargantuan sculpted rock from Lake Tai; at 6.5m high you couldn't miss it if you tried.

The garden is about 3km west of the city centre. Tourist bus Y2 goes there from the train station or Renmin Lu.

#### WEST GARDEN TEMPLE 西园寺

This attractive garden was once part of the Garden to Linger In, but was given to a Buddhist temple in the early 17th century. The **temple**, (Xiyuán Sì; Xiyuan Lu; admission Y25; ☎ 7.30am–5.30pm) with its mustard-yellow walls and gracefully curved eaves, was burnt to the ground during the Taiping Rebellion and rebuilt in the late 19th century. One interesting feature is the Hall of Arhats, with 500 gilded statues of Buddha saints in various expressive poses.

#### BLUE WAVE PAVILION 沧浪亭

Overgrown and wild, this one-hectare **garden** (Cānglàng Tíng; admission off-peak/peak Y15/20; ☎ 7.30am–

5.30pm) is one of the oldest in Sūzhōu. The buildings date from the 11th century, although they have been rebuilt on numerous occasions since.

Originally the home of a prince, the property passed into the hands of the scholar Su Zimei, who named it after a poem by Qu Yuan (340–278 BC).

Lacking a northern wall, the garden creates the illusion of space by borrowing scenes from the outside – from the pavilions and bridges you can see views of the water and distant hills. **Enlightenment Hall** (Míngdào Táng), the largest building, is said to have been a site for delivery of lectures during the Ming dynasty. Close by, on the other side of Renmin Lu, is the former Confucian Temple.

#### HUMBLE ADMINISTRATOR'S GARDEN

##### 拙政园

This rambling **garden** (Zhuōzhèng Yuán; 178 Dongbei Jie; admission off-peak/peak Y50/70; ☎ 7.30am–5.30pm) is the largest of all the gardens and considered by many to be the most impressive. Dating back to the early 1500s, it's a luxuriant five hectares of zigzagging bridges, pavilions, bamboo groves and fragrant lotus ponds; an ideal place for a leisurely stroll. There's also a teahouse and a small museum that explains Chinese landscape gardening concepts.



**LION'S GROVE GARDEN** 狮子林

Near the Humble Administrator's Garden is the **Lion's Grove Garden** (Shizi Lin; 23 Yuanlin Lu; off-peak/peak Y20/30; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm) constructed in 1342 by the Buddhist monk Tianru to commemorate his master, who lived on Lion Cliff in Zhèjiāng's Tianmu Mountain. The garden is also associated with the 14th-century artist Ni Zan, who painted a picture of the garden soon after it was completed. The garden is most notable for its large numbers of curiously shaped rocks, meant to resemble lions, protectors of the Buddhist faith.

**NORTH TEMPLE PAGODA** 北寺塔

This is the tallest **pagoda** (Běisi Tǎ; Renmin Lu; admission Y25; ☎ 7.30am-6pm) south of the Yangzi – at nine storeys it dominates the northern end of Renmin Lu. Climb it for sweeping views of hazy modern-day Sūzhōu.

The temple complex goes back 1700 years and was originally a residence; the current reincarnation dates back to the 17th century. Off to the side is **Nanmu Guanyin Hall** (Nánmù Guānyīn Diàn), which was rebuilt in the Ming dynasty with some features imported from elsewhere. There's a teahouse with a small garden out the back.

**COUPLE'S GARDEN** 耦园

This tranquil **garden** (Oū Yuán; admission Y15; ☎ 8am-4.30pm) is off the main tourist route and sees few visitors, though the gardens, pond and courtyards are quite lovely. Surrounding the garden are some fine examples of traditional Sūzhōu architecture, bridges and canals.

**TWIN PAGODAS** 双塔

These seven-storey **pagodas** (Shuāng Tǎ; admission Y10; ☎ 7am-4.30pm) were built during the Northern Song dynasty by candidates for the imperial examination who wanted to pay tribute to their teachers. The pagodas stand in the centre of an attractive garden filled with stone sculptures, with a teahouse at the far end.

**SŪZHŌU MUSEUM** 苏州博物馆

The **Suzhou Museum** (Sūzhōu Bówùguǎn; ☎ 754 1534, 204 Dongbei Jie; admission Y10; ☎ 8.15am-4pm) was once the residence of Taiping leader Li Xiucheng. The museum offers some interesting old maps, including those of the Grand Canal, Sūzhōu, and heaven and earth. It also houses Qing dynasty stela forbidding workers' strikes,

and relics such as funerary objects, porcelain bowls and bronze swords unearthed or rescued from various sites around the Sūzhōu district. Unfortunately, there are few English captions.

**SŪZHŌU SILK MUSEUM** 丝绸博物馆

A must-see, this **museum** (Sūzhōu Sīchóu Bówùguǎn; 2001 Renmin Lu; admission Y7; ☎ 9am-5pm) houses a number of fascinating exhibitions that detail the history of Sūzhōu's 4000-year-old silk industry. Exhibits include a section on silk weaving techniques and a room with live silk worms munching away on mulberry leaves and spinning cocoons. Many of the captions are in English.

**KUNQU OPERA MUSEUM** 戏曲博物馆

Down a warren of narrow lanes is this small **museum** (Xīqǔ Bówùguǎn; 14 Zhongzhangjia Xiang; admission free; ☎ 8.30am-4pm) dedicated to *kūnqǔ*, the opera style of the region. The beautiful old theatre houses a stage, old musical instruments, costumes and photos of famous performers. It also puts on occasional performances of *kūnqǔ*.

**PINGTAN MUSEUM** 评弹博物馆

West of the Kunqu Opera Museum is the **Pingtán Museum** (Píngtán Bówùguǎn; 3 Zhongzhangjia Xiang; admission Y4), which puts on wonderful performances of *píngtán*, a singing and storytelling art form sung in the Sūzhōu dialect. Shows are at 1.30pm daily.

**TEMPLE OF MYSTERY** 玄妙观

This Taoist **temple** (Xuánmiào Guān; Guanqian Jie; admission Y10; ☎ 7.30am-5.30pm) stands in what was once Sūzhōu's old bazaar, a rowdy entertainment district with travelling showmen, acrobats and actors. The temple's present surroundings of Guanqian Jie are just as boisterous, but the current showmen are more likely to sell you a fake designer watch than balance plates on their heads.

The temple was founded during the Jin dynasty in the 3rd century AD, and restored many times over its long history. The complex contains several elaborately decorated halls, including **Sānqīng Diàn** (Three Purities Hall), which is supported by 60 pillars and capped by a double roof with upturned eaves. The temple dates from 1181 and is the only surviving example of Song architecture in Sūzhōu.

**COLD MOUNTAIN TEMPLE** 寒山寺

About 2km west of the Garden to Linger In, this **temple** (Hánshān Sì; 24 Hanshān Lóng; admission Y20, with Maple Bridge Y45; ☎ 7.30am-5.30pm) was named after the 7th century poet-monk Han Shan. Han Shan has exerted a surprising amount of influence on 20th-century literature, first showing up in the work of Beat writers Gary Snyder and Jack Kerouac, and later in the poetry of Irish Nobel prize-winner Seamus Heaney.

Today, the temple holds little of interest except for a stele by poet Zhang Ji immortalising both the nearby Maple Bridge and the temple bell (since removed to Japan). However, the fine walls and the humpback bridge are worth seeing.

Tourist bus Y3 takes you from the train station to the temple.

**PAN GATE** 盘门

Straddling the outer moat in the southwest corner of the city, this stretch of the city wall has Sūzhōu's only remaining original **coiled gate** (Pán Mén; 1 Dongda Jie; Pan Gate only/with Ruiguang Pagoda Y25/31; ☎ 8am-5pm), which dates from 1355. The exquisite arched Women Bridge (Wúmén Qiáo), crosses the canal just to the east. From the gate there are great views of the moat and the crumbling **Ruiguang Pagoda** (Ruiguāng Tǎ), constructed in the 3rd century AD.

To get there, take tourist bus Y5 from the train station or Changxu Lu.

**TIGER HILL** 虎丘山

In the far northwest of town, **Tiger Hill** (Hǔqiū Shān; Huqiu Lu; admission off-peak/peak Y40/60; ☎ 7.30am-5pm) is extremely popular with local tourists. The hill itself is artificial and is the final resting place of He Lu, founding father of Sūzhōu. He Lu died in the 6th century BC and myths have coalesced around him – he is said to have been buried with a collection of 3000 swords and to be guarded by a white tiger.

Built in the 10th century, the leaning **Cloud Rock Pagoda** (Yúnyán Tǎ) stands atop Tiger Hill. The octagonal seven-storey pagoda, also known as Huqiu Pagoda, is built entirely of brick, an innovation in Chinese architecture at the time. The pagoda began tilting over 400 years ago, and today the highest point is displaced more than 2m from its original position.

Tourist buses Y1 and Y2 from the train station go to Tiger Hill.

**Tours**

Evening boat tours wind their way around the outer canal leaving nightly at 6.30pm (Y35, 80 minutes). The trips are good fun and a great way to experience old Sūzhōu. Remember to bring bug repellent as the mosquitos are tenacious. Tickets can be bought at the port near Renmin Bridge, which shares the same quarters with the Grand Canal ticket office.

**Festivals & Events**

Every September, Sūzhōu hosts the **Sūzhōu Silk Festival**. There are exhibitions devoted to silk history and production, and silk merchants get to show off their wares to crowds of thousands. If you're interested in purchasing high-quality silk at bargain prices, this is a great festival to attend.

**Sleeping**

Sūzhōu has little to offer in the way of cheap accommodation. Hotels, in general, are terribly overpriced for what you get. On a more positive note, it's often possible to bargain room prices down, so don't be immediately deterred by the posted rates.

**BUDGET**

**Suzhou Youth Hostel** (Sūzhōu Guójiā Qīngnián Lǚshè; ☎ 6510 9418; www.yha.suzhou.com; 178 Xiangwang Lu; 相王路178号; dm Y40, d Y120-140, tr Y150; ☎) This hostel opened in 2005 and features tidy rooms along with a guest kitchen, laundry and internet access.

**Dongwu Hotel** (Dōngwú Fāndiàn; ☎ 6519 3681; fax 6519 4590; 24 Wuyachang, Shiquan Jie; 吴衙街24号, 市全街; s/d Y80/100, s/d/t with bathroom Y200/280/360) This clean place, off Shiquan Jie, is run by the Suzhou University International Cultural Exchange Institute. Rooms are adequate, if a little threadbare.

**Hanting Hotel** (Hàntíng Jiǔdiàn; ☎ 6770 1818; fax 6770 1212; 23 Yinguo Xiang; 因国巷23号; s Y218, d Y258-288) Opened in early 2006, this chain hotel features a fresh modern design with laminate floors and sparkling bathrooms. There are free guest-only computers in the lobby. Rooms can be discounted as much as 30%.

**MIDRANGE**

**Gusu Hotel** (Gūsū Fāndiàn; ☎ 6520 0566; fax 6519 9727; 5 Xiangwang Lu; 相王路5号; d Y480-620) This tourist staple has good-sized rooms that won't win any prizes in the décor department but are comfortable enough and have decent bathrooms.

**Suzhou Hotel** (Sūzhōu Fàndiàn; ☎ 6520 4646; fax 6520 5191; 115 Shiquan Jie; 十全街115号; tw/d Y850/1200) This hotel is not as good as its counterparts on Shiquan Jie. Rooms are musty and over-priced but will do in a pinch. Have a look at your room (especially the bathroom) before you commit.

#### TOP END

**Nanlin Hotel** (Nánlín Fàndiàn; ☎ 6519 6333; 20 Gunxiufang; 滚绣坊20号; s/d Y1080) Set in a large, treed compound off Shiquan Jie and surrounded by gardens, the elegant rooms in this modern hotel are well worth the money. Management is courteous and helpful.

**Sheraton Suzhou Hotel & Towers** (Sūzhōu Xīlǎidēng Dǎjiùdiàn; ☎ 6510 3388; www.sheraton-suzhou.com; 388 Xinsu Lu; 新市路388号; d Y1660) If you want comfort, this five-star luxury palace makes the grade. Done up pseudo-Ming style, rooms here are luxurious and fitted with all the latest gadgets to make you happy.

#### Eating

Sūzhōu's restaurants aren't as diverse or sophisticated as those in Shànghǎi or Nánjīng, but you still won't have any problems finding a place to eat. The Guanqian Jie pedestrian district has a number of restaurants, including several well-known places that cater to tourist groups. You'll also find here the usual glut of fast-food restaurants and coffee chains. Shiquan Jie, between Daichengqiao Lu and Xiangwang Lu, is lined with bars, restaurants and bakeries.

Some local delicacies to try are sweet-and-sour mandarin fish (松鼠鳜鱼; *sōngshǔ guìyú*), stewed shredded eel (香油鳝糊; *xiāngyóu shàn hú*) and chicken placed in watermelon rind and steamed (西瓜鸡; *xīguā jī*).

**7&7** (Guanfeng Shangchang; dishes Y4-8; ☎ 24hr) This large, cafeteria-style restaurant near the park in the Guanqian Jie pedestrian area has a line-up of stir-fries, noodle dishes and steamed breads to choose from, all at rock-bottom prices.

**Yángyáng Shuǐjiǎoquǎn** (144 Shiquan Jie; mains Y5-25; ☎ 7am-3am) In this unassuming eatery you can feast on a dozen tasty boiled dumplings (水饺; *shuǐjiǎo*) for a mere Y5. The restaurant also serves inexpensive veggie and meat dishes.

**Sōnghé Lóu** (☎ 6523 3270; 141 Guanqian Jie; mains from Y20-40; ☎ 11.30am-1.30pm & 5-8.30pm) This 200-year-old restaurant is the most famous in town and supposedly Emperor Qianlong's favourite

when he came to visit. Here you can choose from a variety of Sūzhōu-style dishes, including the popular mandarin fish. Food is good but expensive and service can be brusque.

**Déyuélóu** (☎ 6523 8940; 43 Tajian Long; mains Y20-50; ☎ 24hr) Another oldie, this place has been around since the Ming dynasty. The menu features over 300 items, with an emphasis on freshwater fish. It's a popular place for tour groups and the menu is in English.

**Mario's Pizza Ristorante Bar Caffe** (☎ 6770 4322; 1736 Renmin Lu; mains Y30-50; ☎ 10am-10pm Mon-Fri, to 2.30am Sat & Sun) If you get a hankering for something Italian, head to this simple little place near the North Temple Pagoda. Mario's is by far the best place to eat continental cuisine in Sūzhōu. Try one of its authentic pizzas or pasta dishes – the sauces are all homemade and fabulous.

#### Drinking

**West Street Bar** (Xījiē Jiǔláng; 181 Shiquan Jie; drinks Y25-30; ☎ 6pm-late) This three-storey bar is crammed full of Chinese and European antiques. With its homey ambience, eclectic crowd and friendly management, it's a great place to relax with a beer.

#### Entertainment

Music **shows** (tickets Y70; ☎ 7.30-9.30pm) are performed nightly for tourist groups at the Garden of the Master of the Nets (p303). Don't expect anything too authentic – better shows are put on at the Pingtan Museum (p306) in the afternoons.

#### Shopping

Sūzhōu-style embroidery, calligraphy, paintings, sandalwood fans, writing brushes and silk underclothes are for sale nearly everywhere. For good-quality items at competitive rates, shop along Shiquan Jie, east off Renmin Lu, which is lined with shops and markets selling souvenirs.

**Suzhou Antique & Curio Store** (Sūzhōu Wénwù Shāngdiàn; 1208 Renmin Lu; ☎ 10am-5.30pm) You can find silk embroidery, ceramics, fans and other traditional crafts in this government-run store. Bargaining isn't an option here.

These items can also be found in the lively **night market** (☎ 6.30-9.30pm) near Shi Lu, which also sells food, clothing and all kinds of trinkets.

The northern part of Renmin Lu has a number of large silk stores.

**Dōngwú Sīchóu Shāngdiàn** (1546 Renmin Lu; ☎ 8am-10pm) It's attached to a silk factory and has clothes, material and bedding for sale. You can find some lovely items here and staff are open to bargaining.

**Suzhou Food Centre** (Sūzhōu Shípín Dàshā; cnr Renmin Lu & Guanqian Jie; ☎ 8.30am-9pm) For sweets, cookies, snacks and teas, try this traditional food store at the entrance to Guanqian Jie.

#### Getting There & Away

##### AIR

Sūzhōu does not have an airport, but **China Eastern Airlines** (Dōngfāng Hángkōng Gōngsī; ☎ 6522 2788; 1138 Renmin Lu) can help with booking flights out of Shànghǎi. For international tickets, you can also try the CITS beside the Lexiang Hotel. Buses leave frequently for Hongqiao Airport in Shànghǎi. Tickets are Y45.

##### BUS

Overnight passenger boats travel along the Grand Canal to Hángzhōu and many travellers enjoy this experience. The boat departs at 5.30pm daily and arrives the next morning at 7am. You can purchase tickets at the dock at the southern end of Renmin Lu or at the **Lianhe Ticket Centre** (Liánhé Shòupàoqiū; 1606 Renmin Lu; ☎ 8am-5pm). Tickets in a four-person cabin cost Y47 to Y88 per person. A two-person cabin costs Y78 to Y130 per person.

For boats leaving from Hángzhōu, see the Hángzhōu section of the Zhèjiāng chapter on p322.

##### BUS

Sūzhōu has three long-distance bus stations. The main one is at the northern end of Renmin Lu, next to the train station, and a second is at the southern end of Renmin Lu. Both have connections to just about every major place in the region, including Shànghǎi (Y30, 1½ hours), Hángzhōu (Y76, three hours), Wúxī (Y15, 30 minutes), Nánjīng (Y67, 2½ hours) and Zhōuzhuāng (Y15, 1½ hours).

A third station, the Wuxian long-distance bus station (Wúxiàn chēzhàn), further south on Renmin Lu, has similar connections with other buses that are slightly cheaper, but run less frequently than from the other two stations.

Travelling by bus on the Nánjīng–Shànghǎi freeway takes about the same amount of time as the train, but tickets are generally slightly more expensive.

#### TRAIN

Sūzhōu is on the Nánjīng–Shànghǎi train line. The fastest train to Shànghǎi (Y15) takes about 45 minutes; more frequent trains take one hour. There are also trains to Wúxī (Y12, 30 minutes) and Nánjīng (Y33, 2½ hours). CITS will book sleepers for a Y30 service charge or you can book train tickets on the 2nd floor of the **Lianhe Ticket Centre** (Liánhé Shòupàoqiū; 1606 Renmin Lu; ☎ 8am-5pm).

If you want to take a day trip from Shànghǎi to Sūzhōu, trains leave Shànghǎi (Y15) every morning at 7.55am and 8.37am, arriving at 8.42am and 9.15am respectively. Express trains depart for Shànghǎi every afternoon at 5.10pm and 6pm and take about one hour. A nightly express train (Y180) runs between Běijīng and Shànghǎi. The trip takes 11½ hours and leaves each city at 7.30pm.

#### Getting Around

##### BICYCLE

Riding a bike is the best way to see Sūzhōu, though nutty drivers and increased traffic can be nerve jangling, especially around the train station. Search out the quieter streets and travel along the canals to get the most of what this city has to offer.

There's a bicycle rental shop 100m north of the Silk Museum that charges Y5 a day plus a deposit. Check out the seat and brakes carefully before you pedal off.

##### BUS

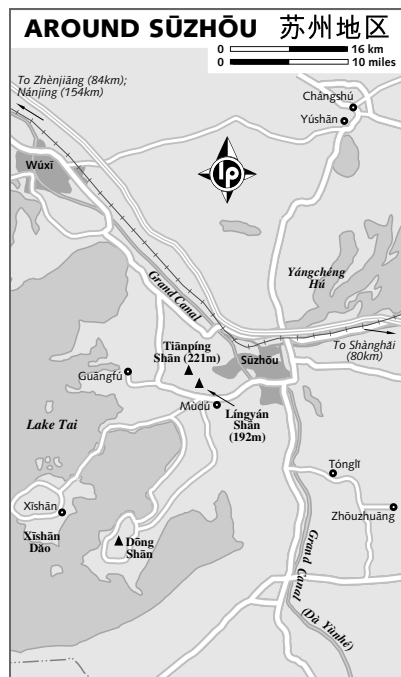
Sūzhōu has some convenient tourist buses that visit all sights and cost Y2. They all pass by the train station. Bus Y5 goes around the western and eastern sides of the city. Bus Y2 travels from Tiger Hill, Coiled Gate and along Shiquan Jie. Buses Y1 and Y4 run the length of Renmin Lu. Buses Y3 and Y4 also pass by Cold Mountain.

##### TAXI

There are plenty of taxis in Sūzhōu. Fares start at Y10 and drivers generally use their meters. Pedicabs hover around the tourist areas and, like elsewhere in China, can be fairly aggressive. Expect to bargain hard.

#### GRAND CANAL 大运河

The Grand Canal (Dà Yùnhé) proper cuts to the west and south of Sūzhōu, within a 10km range of the town. Suburban buses 13, 14, 15 and 16 will get you there. In the northwest,



bus 11 follows the canal for a fair distance, taking you on a tour of the enchanting countryside. Hop off the bus once you find yourself a nice bridge on which you can perch and watch the world of the canal float by. Parking yourself for too long could make you the main attraction.

### Precious Belt Bridge 宝带桥

With 53 arches, this is considered one of China's best bridges (Bǎodài Qiáo). It straddles the Grand Canal and is a popular spot with fisherfolk. The three central humpbacks of the bridge are larger to allow boats through. It recently had some extensive maintenance done and is no longer used for traffic – a modern one has been built alongside it.

Precious Belt Bridge is thought to be a Tang dynasty construction named after Wang Zhongshu, a local prefect who sold his precious belt to pay for the bridge's construction for the benefit of his people.

The bridge is 4km southeast of Sūzhōu. You can get there by taxi (Y15) or a 30-minute bike ride. Head south on Renmin Lu, over the Wai-cheng River. Turn left on Nanhuan Donglu

after you pass the Wuxian long-distance bus station. Head east until you hit the canal on Dongqing Lu then south to the bridge.

### LAKE TAI AREA

The towns surrounding Sūzhōu provide ample opportunity for a visit to Lake Tai and the countryside beyond the lake.

The following destinations can be reached by long-distance bus from Sūzhōu's south long-distance bus station. Tourist bus 4 goes to Língyán Shān and Tiānpíng Shān from the train station.

Scenic **Tiānpíng Shān** (天平山; Lingtian Lu; admission Y10; ☎ 8am-5:30pm) is a low, forested hill about 13km west of Sūzhōu. It's a wonderful place for hiking or just meandering along one of its many wooded trails. It's also famous for its medicinal spring waters.

Eleven kilometres southwest of Sūzhōu is **Língyán Shān** (灵岩山; Lingtian Lu; admission Y25; ☎ 6:30am-4:30pm), or 'cliff of the spirits', once the site of a palace where Emperor Qianlong stayed during his inspection tours of the Yangzi River valley. The palace was destroyed during the Taiping Rebellion. Now, the mountain is home to an active Buddhist monastery.

The refreshingly rural island of **Dōng Shān** (东山; admission Y15; ☎ 7:30am-5pm), 37km southwest of Sūzhōu, connects to Lake Tai by a narrow causeway and is noted for its gardens and the wonderfully secluded **Purple Gold Nunnery** (紫金庵; Zijin'an). To see eroded Tàì Hú rocks 'harvested' for landscaping, visit **Xīshān Dǎo** (西山岛), 33km southwest of Sūzhōu.

### TÓNGLǐ 同里

☎ 0512

The canal town of Tónglǐ, only 18km from Sūzhōu, sits near Lake Tai and the Grand Canal and has been around since at least the 9th century. Rich in atmosphere, many of its buildings have kept their traditional façades, with stark whitewashed walls and black-tiled roofs.

Tónglǐ is a popular destination for day trippers from Sūzhōu or Shànghǎi, but it manages to retain a pleasing weather-beaten charm, despite the flocks of tourists on weekends and holidays. With its ancient homes, cobblestone pathways and canals pleasantly shaded with willow trees, it's a great place for a stroll or just whiling away the hours at a waterside teahouse.

### 5000 YEARS OF EROTICA

Overall, there's not a whole lot distinguishing one canal town from another, and whichever one you choose to visit is ultimately a matter of either convenience or fate (or both). Tónglǐ, however, does have a trump card up its sleeve, though most villagers won't admit it because the card is X-rated. It's the **Chinese Sex Culture Museum** (below). Unfortunately, the name deters most people from even considering a visit, though in reality it is not that racy.

Founded by sociology professors Liu Dalin and Hu Hongxia, the museum's aim is not so much to arouse, but rather to reintroduce an aspect of the country's culture that, ironically, has been forcefully repressed since China was 'liberated' in 1949. The pair have collected several thousand artefacts relating to sex, from the good (erotic landscape paintings, fans and teacups) to the bad (chastity belts and saddles with wooden dildos used to punish 'licentious' women), and the humorous (satirical Buddhist statues) to the unusual (a pot-bellied immortal with a penis growing out of his head topped by a turtle). This is also one of the only places in the country where homosexuality is openly recognised as part of Chinese culture.

### Sights

The **Old Town** (☎ 6333 1140; admission Y80, Sex Museum Y20; ☎ 7:30am-5:30pm) of Tónglǐ is best explored the traditional way, which is to say by wandering aimlessly alongside the canals until you get lost, and then trying to find your way back past the maze of bridges. The whitewashed houses, laundry hanging out to dry and cormorants perched on fishing boats are all so charming that it doesn't really matter where you go, as long as you're fleeing the crowds.

There are three old residences that you'll pass at some point (unless you're really lost), the best of which is **Gēnglè Táng** (耕乐堂), a sprawling Ming dynasty estate with 52 halls spread out over five courtyards in the west of town. The buildings have been elaborately restored and redecorated with paintings, calligraphy and antique furniture to bring back the atmosphere of the original buildings.

In the north of town is the **Pearl Pagoda** (珍珠塔; Zhēnzhū Tǎ), which dates from the Qing dynasty but has recently been restored. Inside, you'll find a large residential compound decorated with Qing-era antiques, an ancestral hall, a garden and even an opera stage where occasional karaoke-style opera performances are held.

In the east is **Tuisi Garden** (退思园; Tuisi Yuán), Tónglǐ's star attraction. The name of the garden means 'to retire and contemplate', so named because it was a Qing government official's retirement home. The surrounds are quite lovely, with pavilions, sculpted rocks and a pond. In the centre of the garden is a large two-storied hall with intricately tiled floors and terraces looking out over the canal and ancient rooftops. On the 2nd floor were

the living quarters of the unmarried women, who were prevented from co-mingling with guests from outside the family.

Last but not least, you can't miss the **Chinese Sex Culture Museum** (中华性文化博物馆; Zhōnghuá Xìngwénhuá Bówùguǎn; admission Y20), the one place you should make an effort to find. If you thought Confucius was a prude, think again. This progressive museum (see the boxed text, above) was forced out of Shànghǎi in search of a permanent home, though hopefully its present location (in a former girls' school) will last.

### Sleeping

**Zhèngfú Cǎotáng** (正福草堂; ☎ 6333 6358; www.zft.net; 138 Mingqing Jie; d Y180-480) For a truly unique experience, stay at this traditional residence, beautifully furnished with Qing furniture and antiques. Outside is a courtyard where you can sit and sip tea while the owner plays the *qin* (a seven-stringed plucked instrument) for guests at night. It's down the main tourist street (turn right at the town entrance). You'll have to reserve in advance.

### Eating

Along the main canal that bisects the town, practically every building is an outdoor restaurant or tea shop. Most serve basic dishes (Y8 to Y25) and tea (Y5). A plate of fried rice with shrimp (*chǎofàn*) will cost Y20.

### Getting There & Away

From Sūzhōu, buses run to Tónglǐ from the bus stop in front of the train station. Buses run every 15 minutes from 6.40am to 5.15pm, and cost Y7. The trip takes about 30 minutes.



A pedicab from the bus station to the Old Town is Y5, or you can walk it in about 10 minutes.

From Shànghǎi, sightseeing buses depart daily from the Shanghai Stadium at 9am, and depart Tónglǐ at 4.30pm; the journey takes up to 1¼ hours depending on traffic. Tickets are Y120 and include admission to the town and all sights, except for the Chinese Sex Culture Museum. You will be dropped off 2km from town at Tónglǐ Lake, from where there's a shuttle (Y4) to the gate. The boat trip on Tónglǐ Lake is free, though of no particular interest.

## MÙDÚ 木渚

☎ 0512

Mùdú is another of Jiāngsū's much-touted canal towns, but less touristy than some of its more famous neighbours. Just 20 minutes by bus from Sūzhōu, the town dates back to the Ming dynasty and was once the haunt of wealthy officials, intellectuals and artists. Mùdú's biggest claim to stardom is declared proudly on a sign near the entrance: 'Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty (1644–1911) visited six times'. Certainly not the biggest or most interesting of the canal towns, it's still an appealing enough place for a day trip from Sūzhōu. Within the old town, several of the traditional canal-side homes have been opened to visitors, giving a glimpse of the opulent lifestyles of the Ming and Qing well-to-do. Mùdú is best-known for its gardens, inspired by the classical gardens of Sūzhōu. Like other water towns, the best way to ditch the crowds is to venture into the warren of narrow streets that branch off of the canals and see what you find.

## Sights

Near the entrance to the **Old Town** (☎ 6636 8225; admission Y60; ☒ 8am–4.30pm) is the dignified **Bangyan Mansion** (榜眼府第; Bǎngyǎn Fǔdì) of the 19th-century writer and politician Feng Guifen. The mansion is the central focus here, with a rich collection of antique furniture and intricate carvings of stone, wood and brick. The surrounding garden is pretty but fairly typical – lotus ponds, arched bridges, bamboo – and can't compare to the more ornate gardens of Sūzhōu.

By far the most interesting place in Mùdú is the **Hongyin Mountain Villa** (虹饮山房; Hóngyīn Shānfáng), with its elaborate opera stage, exhibits and even an imperial pier where Emperor Qianlong docked his boat. The stage in

the centre hall is really impressive; honoured guests were seated in front and the galleries along the sides of the hall were for women. The emperor was a frequent visitor and you can still see his uncomfortable-looking imperial chair, which faces the stage. Operas are still performed here during the day. Surrounding the stage are some carefully arranged gardens, criss-crossed with dainty arched bridges and walkways. The old residence halls have been wonderfully preserved and have some interesting exhibits, including displays of dusty hats and gowns worn by imperial officers.

In the northwest corner of the old town is the **Yan Family Garden** (严家花园; Yánjiā Huāyuán), which dates back to the Ming and was once the home of a former magistrate. The garden, with its rockeries and a meandering lake, is separated into five sections and divided by walls, with each section meant to invoke a season. Flowers, plants and rocks are arranged to create a 'mood'. If you come over the weekend, the only mood the crowds might invoke is exasperation – it's more inspiring to come on a weekday, when you can enjoy the surroundings in peace. In the garden is a gnarled magnolia tree, supposedly planted by the emperor.

The most pleasurable way to experience Mùdú is by boat. You'll find a collection of traditional skiffs for hire docked outside the Bangyan Mansion. A ride in one of these will take you along the smooth waters of the narrow canals, shaded by ancient bridges and battered stone walls. Boat rides are Y10 per person.

## Eating

Along the main street next to the canal is a collection of small restaurants and teahouses selling generic noodle and rice dishes for Y5 to Y10.

## Getting There & Away

From Sūzhōu, tourist bus 4 runs from the train station to Mùdú and costs Y2. Make sure to get off at Mùdú Yánjiā Huāyuán Zhàn (木渚严家花园站), which is across from a small road leading to the main entrance. You'll see a big sign and a parking lot full of tour buses. The ride takes about 30 minutes.

From Shànghǎi, deluxe buses run from the Shanghai Stadium directly to Mùdú. They leave at 7.20am and 8.10am and leave Mùdú at 4pm for the return trip. Tickets cost Y110. Alternatively, you can take a bus or train to Sūzhōu and switch to bus 4 at the train station.

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