

Nanjing Tour

13 July, 2019



NANJING, capital of Jiangsu Province, is located in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, with a population of over 827 million as of 2018. It is one of the most important regional centers of East China. With a history of over 2500 years, the development of Nanjing is based on its profound traditional culture.

Visiting the city is not only a journey to ancient times, but also an experience of contemporary Nanjing life. The diversity of culture, food, and lifestyles shows the charm and energy of this city.

Itinerary

Saturday, 13 July

- 08:30 am: Depart from Nanjing University
- Visit Nanjing International Youth Cultural Park
- Visit the 24-hour Art Museum at the International Youth Cultural Park
- Visit the City Wall at the Xuanwu Lake
- Lunch (on our own, restaurant to be selected)
- Tour the Grand Baoen Temple Heritage and Scenic Area

Enjoy a Qipao fashion show a folk music performance at the Former Residence of Gan Xi

- Dinner at Laomendong (on our own)

Profiles of the stops on the tour

Nanjing International Youth Cultural Park



The **Nanjing International Youth Cultural Park** is located in Jianye District, Nanjing. This beautiful park stretched along the bank of the Yangtze River, taking up an area of approximately 9.7 km². It is surrounded by a few other sites such as the Youth Olympic Village, the Nanjing Eye Pedestrian Bridge and the Nanjing International Youth Cultural Centre.

The Nanjing Eye Pedestrian Bridge is a landmark of which Nanjing people feel fairly proud. This bridge over the Yangtze River was built in 2014 during the 2nd Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, with a total length of 827.5 meters and a main span of 240 meters. Two main towers of the bridge could be associated with two shining eyes, and that's why it was named the Nanjing eye. It connects Jiangxin Island with Nanjing Hexi New Town.

The Nanjing International Youth Cultural Centre is located on the river in Hexi New Town. Designed by the celebrated architect Zaha Hadid, this spectacular skyscraper features the spectacular twin towers, of which the taller tower is 314.5m tall whereas the lower one, 2 255 m. Construction of this building began in 2012 and ended in 2015.

24-Hour Art Museum



The **24-hour Art Museum** is the first public art museum in China that is open to the public all day long, featuring a blend of contemporary art and urban ecology. It is located in the Nanjing International Youth Cultural Square, which is 450-meter-long

and 100-meter wide, designed by the world-famous architect Zaha Hadid. Eight glass boxes scattered around the area, which were upgraded and officially opened to the public at 20:00 on November 1, 2018 with the 24-hour solo residence plan led by large-scale public art works such as Artificial Rainbow has aroused widespread concern and coverage of media at all levels. The 24-hour Art Museum updates the theme of the exhibition every 2-3 months.

Nanjing City Wall



Nanjing City Wall (Ming City Wall), dated back to the 14th century in Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), is the city fortification where we can appreciate ancient architecture. Founded by the Ming Dynasty Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang (1368-1398), it was originally built to protect Nanjing from invaders. The Ming City Wall of Nanjing was 35 kilometers long. It took 21 years and a reported 200,000 men to build. There was even ‘quality control’, and each brick is said to bear the name of a supervisor (you can still make them out). Of the remaining gates, Zhonghua Gate or Jubao Gate was known during Ming Dynasty and is the best persevered. Another gate still stands is Jiefang Gate with a small museum exhibiting the history of the Wall. Walking along the Ming Great Wall of Nanjing, you will feel the touch of ancient times.

Xuanwu Lake Park



The 472 hectares **Xuanwu Lake Park** was the largest Imperial lake garden in China's history. It is also the largest downtown park in the south of China. It is in the northwest of the city center, just next to one of the main shopping streets. The panorama of modern Nanjing and its beautiful natural surroundings surround the expanse of calm water. Most of the park is covered by a large lake dotted with a cluster of medium size islands, connected by tree lined causeways and bridges. On one side rises the green forested slopes of Purple Mountain, while bright yellow walls and tall pagoda of a Buddhist temple crown a hill on the southern shore. The giant Ming City Walls wraps around two sides of the lake, while a forest of modern office towers and apartments glitter in the background. The islands themselves are a mix of groves, gardens, small pavilions, grassy fields, some restaurants and tea houses. A stroll through the park is a relaxing break from sightseeing and a unique ensemble of the many facets of modern Jiangsu.

The Grand Baoen Temple Heritage and Scenic Area



The Grand Baoen Temple Heritage and Scenic Area, which takes up a total area of 13.3 hectares, is located outside Nanjing Zhonghuamen city gate, adjacent to the outer Qinhuai River to the north, and to the Yuhua Terrace to the south, with the 1865 Creative Industry Park to the east and Yuhua Road along the western edge.

The word Baoen in Chinese means showing your gratitude and repaying an obligation. The Grand Baoen Temple Heritage and Scenic Area as a whole is designed to be the sacred land of great gratitude, with “Nine Great Wonders” comprising the Light of Buddha, Wondrous Sites, Underground Sarira Palace, Grand Baoen Pagoda, Sacred Relics Exhibition, Live Shows, First Temple in Jiangnan, Baoen Forum, and Ming-Style Streets. The Grand Baoen Temple Heritage and Scenic Area will not only serve as a great gallery for the appreciation of Buddhist culture and art, but will also be a sacred place for visitors and a pilgrimage site for Buddhist believers.

As for the construction of the Grand Baoen Temple Heritage and Scenic Area, the first phase of construction focused on its core area, including the protection of the historical sites, museums of Buddhist culture and Grand Baoen Pagoda. The second phase, which is to be completed and opened to the public in 2017, includes Jianchu Temple, Translation Tower, and Ming-Style Streets.

Former Residence of Gan Xi



The **Former Residence of Gan Xi**, known as the Grand Courtyard of the Gan Clan, is located on Zhongshan South Road, Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China. It lies next to Nan Bu Ting, the South station of the former Nanjing Police Station. It was built in the reign of the Jiaqing Emperor (1796–1820), the Qing Dynasty, and its first owner was Gan Xi's father, Gan Fu. Originally known as "Fraternity Hall", it now serves as the Nanjing Folk Museum.

There is a well-known claim that the Forbidden City, the largest imperial palace complex, contains 9,999 and a half rooms, and that the largest mandarin estate, namely the Mansion of Confucius' Descendants in Qufu, supposedly comprised 999 and a half rooms. As a large residence belonging to commoners, the Gan Family Mansion was often said by analogy to contain 99 and a half rooms, though in fact there are over three hundred.

As the Nanjing Folk Museum, it displays an exhibition of handicrafts, including Yixing clay teapot, Chinese paper cutting, miniature engravings, Chinese opera make-up patterns, old clocks as well as local snacks. It is worth noting that some parts of the residence are still privately owned or occupied by certain companies.

The Cheongsam (Qipao)



The **Cheongsam** (also known as Qipao or Chipao) is a traditional Chinese close-fitting dress for women. Originating from a type of Manchurian female garment, it quickly developed, becoming very popular from 1912 to 1949. Its main characteristics are a mandarin collar, fitted waist, Chinese knotted buttons, hemmed slits on two sides, and a tailored form fit. It is usually made from satin brocade, silk, or cotton. Some are even beautifully embroidered.

The original Manchurian garment was loose and wide, covering most of the woman's body with only the head, hands and toes revealed. With time, the style of the Cheongsam began to change to more closely fit people's bodies. The 1920s~1930s was the golden time for its development and it was during this time that the Cheongsam occupied an irreplaceable position in ladies fashion. More western elements began to be added to Chinese clothes. The hem became shorter, the collar became smaller and it began to follow the woman's figure. The short hem and small collar style gradually formed during this time and has changed little since.

After 1949, Chinese no longer wore the Cheongsam in daily life and up until the 1980s it was regarded as the dress of the service industry, being seldom worn by ordinary people. In recent years the Cheongsam has begun to be worn by Chinese people as formal wear on important occasions.

Lao Men Dong



Lao Men Dong is the core of southern Nanjing. Like Xintiandi in Shanghai, it is one of the city's most successful urban restoration projects. In a city experiencing rapid development, most of Nanjing's old architecture is being torn down. However, in southern Nanjing-the root of Nanjing-some older buildings remain scattered. Local families knew each other intimately, speak the most authentic Nanjing dialect, have the best street snacks and know the best old Nanjing tales.

On the ground floor of former residential buildings stand lots of tea houses, local vendors, design shops, folk artists, boutique hotels, bars, international restaurants and old former residences of celebrities. A museum complex locates here as well which is redeveloped from former Nanjing Colorful Fabric Factory. It includes Nanjing Painting and Calligraphy Academy, Jinling Art Museum, and Museum of Southern Nanjing Memory, where you can better understand Nanjing local culture.