

# Exciting Autumn Travel Season Begins in Ningbo!

By Gou Wen

Recently, the 2021 Ningbo Tourism Festival kicked off, with more than 60 local scenic spots, museums, parks, resorts, as well as 30 hotels and B&Bs participating. Citizens can enjoy discounted tickets to tourist attractions and participate in an impressive range of tourism and cultural activities. Come discover Ningbo's amazing autumn destinations with us!

## Autumn Floral Sights

This season is the best time of the year to head out into nature. At the Hangzhou Bay National Wetland Park, reed catkins are in bloom, covering an area of 10 km<sup>2</sup> and attracting hordes of visitors.

The 8th Reed Catkins Festival began at the Wetland Park on October 30 and will last throughout November, during which fun activities will take place every weekend, including music performances, poetry readings, painting parties, and role-playing murder mystery games.

As a world-class bird-watching spot, the Hangzhou Bay Park is the only national-level wetland park in Ningbo. In addition to its scenic landscape, the Park is also well-known for its wetland restoration, wetland research, and environmental education efforts.

## Rural Fun

Shilin Village is one of the oldest villages in Yuyao. The name "Shilin" means "persimmon grove" in Chinese.

Autumn is the busiest season of the year in Shilin Village. More than seven acres of persimmon orchards in the village bear fruit. The pick-your-own orchards receive flocks of visitors.

The annual output of persimmons here is nearly 200,000



Chrysanthemum exhibition opens at Ningbo botanical garden.

[Photo by Tang Yan]

kilograms. Shilin persimmons are smaller than regular varieties, yet exceptionally sweet and brilliantly red. The fruit dangles on branch-tips like adorable small lanterns.

Want to see the dazzling gold and orange of autumn? Fenghua's Tazhulin Village has an ancient ginkgo tree. The tree's age has been confirmed by agriculture and forestry experts to be over 1,500 years old. Known as Ningbo's "King of Trees", this ginkgo stands testament to the thousand-year history of the village.

In the city, sweet Osmanthus flowers are in bloom everywhere; their scent is Ningbo's unique autumn aroma. Fenghua's Xi'ao Village is famous for its 300-plus Osman-

thus trees. The oldest tree is more than 1,000 years old.

Collecting Osmanthus flowers is the activity that many visitors travel to the village for. One person would use a bamboo pole to knock the branches, while the others gather the "rain" of petals that fall from the tree.

## Seasonal Delicacies

Not only can Osmanthus flowers be gathered for their fragrance, but they can also serve as a culinary ingredient.

"This year, in addition to the traditional 'Osmanthus shower' and fun activities, there are also Osmanthus foods available for visitors," said Ms. Weng, a tourist.

At Xi'ao Village, visitors

can buy wine fermented with Osmanthus flowers, sweet-scented Osmanthus desserts, and other local specialties. Last year, the village's output of Osmanthus flowers exceeded 1,000 kilograms.

Autumn is also the harvest season of Fenghua taro, a variety that is particularly sweet and soft. Many local people associate its taste with the flavor of home.

The main production area of Fenghua taro is Xiaowangmiao Town, where more than 3,000 acres of premium-quality taro are grown.

## 22 New Tourist Routes

At the Festival, twenty-two newly-curated tourist routes

were announced. Each has a different theme, such as "the Yao River's history and culture" or "mountaintop and riverside sceneries". These new routes incorporate the best attractions in and around Ningbo, saving travelers' planning time.

For instance, the "Ninghai hot springs route" strings together the Ninghai Forest Hot Springs Resort, village visits, and nature walks. Other sites of interest along the route include: the hometown of Pan Tianshou, a celebrated traditional Chinese painter; Hehong Village, Ningbo's first "longevity village"; the production farm of Ninghai's coveted Wanghai tea; and more.

## SPOTLIGHT

### Chrysanthemum

### Exhibitions

### Held Across Ningbo

By Dong Na

On November 2, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chrysanthemum Exhibition officially opened at the Ningbo Academician Park.

The chrysanthemums in full bloom were a riot of colors. Many citizens flocked to the Park to admire the flowers, take photos, and enjoy the fine autumn weather.

The chrysanthemum is one of the ten most beloved flowers in China; since ancient times, it has symbolized good fortune and longevity. This year's exhibition covers an area of 32,000 m<sup>2</sup>, the largest in recent years. 30,000 chrysanthemums of more than 100 varieties were arranged in eight installations alongside a charity bazaar.

The innovative combination of traditional Chinese floral installations and charity activities allows everyone to take part in the pleasure of giving back to society while enjoying the beautiful scenery.

In Zhenhai district, the 34<sup>th</sup> Golden Autumn Chrysanthemum Exhibition was also officially opened, with more than 60,000 pots of chrysanthemums on display at Zhaobao Mountain Scenic Area and in the Ningbo Botanical Garden.

The Zhenhai Exhibition has been held for 42 years since 1979. Once again, the Zhenhai People's Park is full of fragrant flowers. Near the main entrance, a massive landscape scene has been artistically crafted, with a waterfall and a traditional pagoda, attracting many visitors.

In addition to highlighting the culture and traditions associated with the chrysanthemum, the Zhenhai Exhibition is also an opportunity for gardening enthusiasts to share cultivation and bonsai techniques. Visitors gathered near the floral installations and flower beds, eagerly taking photos and exchanging gardening tips.

"When I was a child, my parents took me to see the chrysanthemum show every year. Although I don't live in Zhenhai now, I never miss the annual chrysanthemum exhibition," said Mr. Dong, a citizen who brought his family to Zhaobao Mountain to appreciate the floral scenery.

In the Ningbo Botanical Garden, twelve kinds of rare Chinese and foreign chrysanthemums are on display, arranged in flower figures and backdrops that resemble mythological characters, folk tale scenes, and adorable animals, transforming the Garden into a romantic, magical botanical kingdom.

The Zhenhai exhibition will conclude on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

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## 双语汇 Different Tongues

# 月湖：水清岸美，人文荟萃

By Jin Lu

Moon Lake ("Yuehu" in Chinese) is located in the southwest of downtown Ningbo. The lake is long and narrow with an area of 0.2 km<sup>2</sup>.

月湖，位于宁波市城区的西南。该湖呈狭长形，面积约0.2平方公里。

The Lake was dug in AD 636. During the reign of Emperor Shaoxing of the Southern Song Dynasty (1131-1162), the prefecture chief, Liu Cheng, built pavilions, terraces and covered walkways on the shores of the lake; he also had flowering trees and shrubs planted in the area. The landscapes he designed are known as the "ten sights of Moon Lake".

该湖开凿于唐贞观年间（636年）。南宋绍兴年间，知州刘程广筑

亭台楼阁，遍植四时花树，形成月湖上十洲胜景。

Historically, the Moon Lake was a gathering place for the literati. The famous Tang-Dynasty poet He Zhizhang, Song-Dynasty Yin County Governor Wang Anshi, and Southern Song-Dynasty Minister Shi Hao, had all traveled to or been inspired by the beauty of Moon Lake.

这里也是文人墨客憩息荟萃之地。唐代大诗人贺知章、北宋名臣王安石、南宋宰相史浩，这些风流人物都在月湖留下不可磨灭的印痕。

The Moon Lake is to Ningbo what West Lake is to Hangzhou. Since the Tang and Song Dynasties, it has always been at the heart of the city. Surrounded by greenery and elegant Chinese-style architecture, the lake has a unique charm. Stroll down the lakeside paths or



Moon Lake. /月湖。

[Photo by Yi Guoqing] 易国庆 摄

row a boat out to the center of the lake and take in the picturesque view!

月湖之于宁波，犹如西湖之于杭州。自唐宋以来，一直是城中繁华之地。湖边植树花草，建有亭台

楼阁，湖景迷人。漫步在岸边，或在湖中泛舟，都会有一种身处山水画中的感觉。

