

Striving Towards a Modern Coastal Metropolis

# Explore Ningbo's Spring Flowers

By Dong Na

As the warm spring breeze returns, the time of the year to enjoy a beautiful spring walk has come. Now that March has begun, there will be tulips, peach blossoms, rapeseed flowers and cherry blossoms all over Ningbo.

Take a look at this year's best spring flower viewing locations.

## Tulips

2,600m<sup>2</sup> of tulips are in full bloom in Yinzhou District. Their bright yellow, red, and pink add a touch of life to the city.

The tulip is a perennial herb of the lily family with underground bulbs. The stems usually have three to five strap-shaped leaves. The flowers are generally red, white, or yellow, 5-7 cm tall and 2-4 cm in diameter. Each flower's six stamens are equal in length. The filaments are smooth. The style is absent, and each stigma has several distinct lobes.

**Flowering period:** March to May

**Best viewing places:** Yinzhou's Cultural Square, Yinzhou Park, Ningbo Botanical Garden.

## Peach Blossoms

The peach tree belongs to the rose family. Blooming pink and pale white in early spring, the peach blossoms are a gorgeous sight in Ningbo. Flowers are produced in early spring before the leaves. The flowers are solitary (not growing in clusters), with thin and soft petals. They give off a subtle, pleasant fragrance. In Ningbo's urban green spaces, peach trees are mostly planted on slopes, lawns, next to ornamental rocks, or along rivers, interspersed with willow trees.

**Flowering period:** March to April



Blooming flowers in Ningbo.

[Photo by Tang Yan]

**Best viewing places:** Fenghua's Linjia Village and Xinjian Village; Peach Orchard in Zhangqi, Cixi. Ningbo's inner city parks are also a good choice: Moon Lake Park, Huai-shu Park, and Yinzhou Park.

## Rapeseed Flowers

The large rapeseed flower fields in Dayan Town, Fenghua, are spectacularly golden. In spring, it looks as if the land has been dyed bright yellow. Rapeseed is widely cultivated in China, mostly in the Yangtze River basin and in the country's south. The flowers are radial and consist of four petals in a typical cross-form.

**Flowering period:** March to April

**Best viewing places:** Dayan Town in Fenghua, Sangzhou Town in Ninghai, and Daren Village in Jiangbei.

## Cherry Blossoms

Cherry blossoms belong to the rose family. Each cluster of flowers form an umbel structure, in which the short flower stalks spread from a common point, like umbrella ribs. The flowers are white or pale pink, slightly fragrant. There is a cleft at the tip of each petal. Some varieties bloom before the leaves open; others bloom after. The flowers last only a week or so before withering. Trees are planted solitarily or in clusters on lawns, next to ponds, or in rock gardens. There are many

varieties of cherry blossoms with differing flowering periods. Common varieties include the Yoshino cherry, the Oshima cherry, and the "Kanzan" cultivar. Some can bloom for six weeks or even longer.

**Flowering period:** March to April

**Best viewing places:** The Siming Mountains' Zhangxi Scenic Spot ("Zhejiang's capital of cherry blossoms"), Beilun's Jiufeng Mountain and Taishan Road, Fenghua's Xikou Cherry Garden, Yuyao's Dalan Town, Sakura Park, Haishu Park, Ningbo Botanical Garden.

## Azalea

The azalea is from the rhododendron family. The flow-

ers have many colors such as pink, crimson, and white, with a wide funnel shape and purple spots. Flower clusters usually consist of 2-6 flowers, growing on branch tops.

There are many cultivars of azaleas, with different flowering periods in different seasons. They are often planted in flower beds, on hillsides, near water, or bordering groves of evergreen trees.

**Flowering period:** April to June

**Best viewing places:** Beilun's Chaiqiao "Azalea Town", Fenghua's Jin'e Mountain, Wulongtan Scenic Spot, Ninghai's Chashan Donghai Yunding Scenic Spot; Moon Lake Park, Minglou Park and other urban parks; Urban green spaces.



## 双语汇 Different Tongues

# 九龙湖：湖光山色，风景独好

By Gou Wen

Jiulonghu (Jiulong Lake) is located in Zhenhai, Ningbo. To the north of the lake, there are nine peaks and nine ridges among the rolling hills, resembling nine dragons, which is why the Lake is named *Jiulong* ("nine dragons") in Chinese.

九龙湖位于镇海，湖的北侧有九个山头 and 九条山脊并列，犹如九条卧龙伏地，因而得名。

Due to its unique wetland ecology, Jiulong Lake is home to a diverse range of rare flora and fauna. About 40 species of wetland plants, such as the common reed and silvergrass, grow here. A variety of birds, including egrets and mallards, live here. The pangolin, the Chinese hare, and other animals also thrive here.

独特的湿地生态环境，造就此地

丰富的珍稀动植物资源。这里有芦苇、芒草等约40余种湿地植物，白鹭、绿头鸭等多种鸟类栖息于此，穿山甲、华南兔等兽类在这里繁衍生息。

The surrounding vegetation consists mostly of coniferous trees and broad-leaved secondary forests. Local trees listed as national and provincial key protected species include the ginkgo and the Chinese tulip poplar.

景区内以乔木针叶林、阔叶树次生林为主，其中列入国家和省级重点保护的树种有银杏、鹅掌楸等。

Nowadays, tourists at Jiulong Lake can explore nature and enjoy modern amusement facilities such as the giant rainbow hillside slide, the children's park, and lake cruises.

如今，九龙湖不仅能满足人们探索自然、亲近自然的愿望，游客在此还可以体验彩虹滑道、梦幻乐园等娱乐项目，以及游船观光等休闲项目，享受自然山水间的乐趣。



The tranquil lake. /宁静的湖泊。

[Photo by Jiulonghu] 九龙湖供图

## SPOTLIGHT

# Smarter City Management

By Xu Zhuowei

"The latest surveillance camera system can recognize and analyze real-time events on the streets, including illegal acts," said Wang Bin, project leader of the Precision Urban Management System of Zhenhai District's Urban Management and Law Enforcement Bureau. The new system was installed this year and now in trial operation.

Using artificial intelligence, big data analysis and other technologies, Zhenhai's urban management team can now monitor urban environments in real time, around the clock, and use digital tools to enforce regulations.

In the past, law enforcement mainly relied on in-person patrols to manage illegal parking. Wang Bin operated the system for the correspondent to demonstrate how it could recognize illegally parked vehicles on the road in real time. "When a violation occurs, the system will automatically identify the offending vehicle and send a text message to the vehicle owner." Wang Bin said that with the help of the new system, Zhenhai has achieved comprehensive, all-day monitoring of key areas. Incidents can be identified almost immediately. A highly-automated workflow, incorporating smart recognition, smart task allocation, and smart result verification and case closure, has been formed.

For the urban management team, the monitoring of streetside businesses mainly involves overseeing their general appearance, waste disposal, and natural gas safety. In the past, many inspections were required to complete the checklist. "We have already developed a digital profiling app in the management system, creating a dynamically-updated profile for each business. This year, we improved the app's functions by generating a 'comprehensive portrait' for each store, which allows us to better combine support services, inspections, awareness-building, penalties, credit evaluations, and other techniques to achieve long-term governance and standardization of law enforcement," Wang Bin said.

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