

0 Striving Towards a Modern Coastal Metropolis

Encounter the Charm of Song Culture in Ningbo

By Jin Lu

The Song Dynasty (960-1279 A.D.) was a great and major time for the Chinese culture when many groundbreaking achievements were made and distinct aesthetics created.

As a cultural hallmark with unique Ningbo features, Song Culture deserves to shine not only in our times but also with future generations.

Explore Song Dynasty Culture in Ningbo

What is the Song Yun, or the charm of China's Song Dynasty culture? How should we define it and where can we find it? These topics have been under lively discussion among the literate community in Ningbo.

It is learned that in 1127, the imperial Zhao family retreated southward when the old capital in the north was captured by Jurchen invaders. Later, Hangzhou (then known as Lin'an) was designated the new capital city of the Southern Song.

Never had Ningbo been so close to the central authorities. Thanks to its geographical advantages, Ningbo—known as "Mingzhou" during the Southern Song—saw the culmination of its full development in politics, economy and culture.

At that time, many famous masters came to Ningbo, and their activities influenced the city for thousands of years.

For example, Wang Anshi (1021-1086), a Chinese economist, philosopher, poet, and politician during the Song Dynasty, was promoted to district magistrate (*zhixian*) of Yinxian (Ningbo, Zhejiang Province).

In his tenure of three years, he had done many practical things for people's livelihood as he implemented some new policies during his days in Ningbo, which became valuable experience for his later reforms.



Song style performance attracts a large number of tourists.

[Photo by Wang Peng]

Literati, such as Lu You, Zeng Gong, Wu Wenying, Fan Chengda, Shu Ji, attracted by the landscape of Ningbo and left famous poems.

Besides, many precious remnants of ancient Song survive. The Baoguo Temple, built during the Song, is the second oldest preserved wooden structure in Zhejiang as well as regions south of the Yangtze River.

By Dongqian Lake, a stone sculpture park showcases the most intact stone carvings from the Southern Song. Not far from the park, Hengsheng and Miaogouhou stone archways are still standing as the first of their kind in China.

Do as the Song People Do

Ever wonder what it is like to live as someone back in the Song Dynasty? Tens of thousands of people have done so in Ningbo.

You can also dress like Song people. Recently, Cicheng has invited citizens to dress up

in Song clothing and tour around the place.

"I had so much fun there! I will definitely come back visiting again," said Ma Rui, a student from Ningbo University who participated in the event. She was amazed by the elegance of Song people in every detail of their daily life.

If you want to experience the life of ancient people in Ningbo, you must go to Tianyi Pavilion. It's very pleasant to wear the clothes of that year and recite a poem.

Recently, an event was held in Tianyi Pavilion in Ningbo, during which visitors experienced the culture of the Song Dynasty. Visitors also had the chance to experience traditional Chinese activities, such as flower arrangements and tea ceremony.

The activity was part of a series known as "Tianyi Yedu", introducing collections from the Tianyi Pavilion, one of the oldest existing libraries in Asia.

The activity focused on a

stele on which 20 poems written by poets and scholars during the Song Dynasty, including Qian Gongfu, Wang Anshi and Sima Guang, were engraved.

Also, you can experience the culture of incense and fragrances in the Song style.

During the summer holiday, a calligraphy class in one of old courtyard houses by Moon Lake, a light smoke wafts within the walls inspiring student.

"The smoke sometimes grows into curves, fine spray and clouds," said a student, "It can help me find inner peace."

Why is Ningbo So Committed to Song Charm

Song Yun, or the charm of Song, is what Ningbo and Zhejiang have been promoting in the past few years.

It might seem strange in an age of the latest new gimmicks to commit to something so ancient. The Song culture, however, is far more relevant to the

current daily life than you could imagine. Zhejiang and Ningbo believe that it is important to find charms in daily life as well as in all industries.

Experts believe that the Ningbo area rapidly developed from a small coastal town to a famous county in the southeast during the Song Dynasties. Therefore, Ningbo should pay attention to the study of the history and culture of the Song Dynasty.

Just like how Song managed to develop a unique philosophy and aesthetics that were fully immersed into the daily life remained to today on a teacup pattern or a piece of furniture, Zhejiang and Ningbo want to explore the possibility for a seamless integration of philosophy, cultural elements and values that could be injected into everyday life. Getting people to dress up and act in a certain way while marveling at the past incredible achievements, is definitely a good start.

0 SPOTLIGHT

Ningbo Will Build 12 More '15-Minute Convenient Living Circles'

By Dong Na

"There are supermarkets and restaurants nearby, as well as hairdressers, car washes, childcare centers, libraries and beauty salons," said Ms. Wang, a citizen who lives next to Changfeng Yuelinhui Neighborhood Center in Yinzhou District.

As the first intelligent neighborhood center in Ningbo, Changfeng Yuelinhui brings together a variety of businesses such as boutique supermarkets, boutique hotels, community retails, catering services, education and training, and also has an online platform with multi-services.

Ningbo is one of the first pilot areas in China to establish a 15-minute convenient living circle, taking the lead in establishing a list of convenient facilities. It has picked Jiangbei District to carry out the pilot work. Covering all sorts of services, not only does the 'circle' easily meet the basic needs of residents in terms of clothing, food, housing and transportation, but also is suitable for living, working and studying.

By the end of 2021, Ningbo had built thirty-three 15-minute convenience living circles, of which 10 were new in the year; more than 180 branded chain convenience stores, 60 integrated supermarkets and nearly 4,000 other shops have been opened, and the average satisfaction rate of residents in the pilot communities exceeded 95%.

Each of these "circles" has its own features. For example, the Zhongshan community in Haishu District, has introduced reputable shops and built service points in nine streets to provide public services; one community in Jiangbei focuses on convenience and leisure businesses and has introduced unmanned libraries.

Not long ago, Ningbo launched the province's first "15-minute convenient living circle" application platform, which allows residents to find a map of merchants in five types of businesses: shopping, dining, services, sports and culture, and family. Ningbo has also issued 5 million yuan in vouchers for the most popular circles, providing relief to more than 200 small and medium-sized businesses.

Another twelve circles of this kind are expected to be completed this year, with a focus on commercial infrastructure, families, culture, public services, and digital operations.

Chief Adviser: Zhou Fangzhou
Proofreader: Dong Na

0 双语汇 Different Tongues

北仑梅山湾：人海和谐的美丽海湾

By Xu Zhuowei

Located in Beilun District, Ningbo City, Meishan Bay has a total length of 11.5 kilometers and a total area of about 9.63 square kilometers. It has a wide sea area, rich coastline resources and a superior ecological environment. The mountains, seas, lakes, ports, bays, and wetlands in the Bay area are considered local attractions and the forest coverage rate is as high as 60%.

梅山湾位于宁波市北仑区，总长11.5公里，总面积约9.63平方公里。梅山湾海域范围广、岸线资源丰富、生态环境优越，同时拥有山、海、湖、港、湾、湿地等特色资源，森林覆盖率高达60%。

In 2016, Meishan Bay launched a comprehensive renovation project that includes ecological restoration, beach renovation, and biological treatment. Up to now, the goal of marine ecological revamp of

"beautiful harbors, ecological islands and reefs, and green coasts" has been basically achieved.

2016年，梅山湾启动实施综合整治工程，经过生态修复、岸滩整治、生物治理等，目前已基本实现“美丽海湾、生态岛礁、绿色海岸”的海洋生态文明建设目标。

Leveraging its own resources, the Bay area becomes home to several tourist sites, including Meishan Bay Beach Park, Meishan Bay Ice World, and China Port Museum. It is now a high-level coastal leisure tourism destination. Nowadays, Meishan Bay has been named a provincial-level tourist resort and receives an average of more than 1.1 million tourists per year.

梅山湾利用自身资源优势，打造了梅山湾沙滩公园、梅山湾冰雪大世界、中国港口博物馆等，高水平打造滨海休闲旅游目的地，获批省级旅游度假区，年均接待游客超过110万人次。



Meishan Bay. /梅山湾。

[Photo by Tang Yan] 唐严 摄

