

Striving Towards a Modern Coastal Metropolis

Enjoy Moon in Ningbo as Mid-Autumn Festival Arrives

By Jin Lu

As one of the most important traditional Chinese festivals, the Mid-Autumn Festival falls on the 15th day of the eighth month of the Chinese lunar calendar, or Sep. 10 of the Gregorian calendar, this year.

Here are the things you should know about this special occasion, perhaps they could be a guide to what you can do on this day.

Legend

What are the festival's origins? Over the centuries, there have been different versions of the folklore behind it. Among them, the story of Chang'e is the most widely known.

Chang'e is the Chinese goddess of the moon who consumed an elixir of life before flying to the moon.

According to the most famous variation of the story in Chinese mythology, in ancient times, 10 suns shined simultaneously in the sky, creating scorching heat on earth: plants were burnt and humans faced death.

Hou Yi, Chang'e's husband and a valiant archer, was able to shoot down nine suns and saved the planet. As a reward, he was given an elixir of immortality, but it was only enough for one person.

The archer didn't take the elixir since he didn't want to be separated from his beloved wife, but instead, he asked her to put it away.

After his epic deeds, Hou Yi gained instant fame and respect nationwide and a large number of people flocked to his home to learn his archery skills.

However, an immoral man named Peng Meng was in the throng of people but only wanted the elixir.

One day when Hou Yi was leading his students outdoors to hunt, the cunning Peng said he was sick and stayed behind. He sneaked into the couple's room to steal the elixir, but Chang'e caught him.



At Mid-Autumn Festival, the moon is at its roundest and brightest.

[Photo by Wang Liliang]

Peng tried to force Chang'e to hand over the elixir, but she swallowed it and started to float up to the sky, all the way to the moon.

Legend has it that she chose to stay on the moon, the closest planet to the earth so that she could stay nearer to her husband.

Hou Yi was heartbroken by her departure. He immediately set up an incense table in his garden and laid out Chang'e's favourite foods to pay tribute to her. From then on, people began to worship the moon.

Traditions

The Mid-Autumn Festival takes its name from the fact that it is always celebrated in the middle of the autumn season. The day is also known as the

Moon Festival, as at that time of the year the moon is at its roundest and brightest.

This day is also considered a harvest festival since fruit, vegetables and grain have been harvested by this time.

It is an evening celebration where families gather together to light lanterns, eat moon cakes and appreciate the round moon. The full moon is a symbol of family reunion, which is why that day is also known as the Festival of reunion.

In the very beginning, moon cakes were served as a sacrifice to the Moon. The word "moon cake" first appeared in the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279). Nowadays, moon cakes are given as presents to loved ones and it represents people's wishes to be together during the Mid-Autumn Festival.

The Chinese government

listed the festival as an intangible cultural heritage in 2006. It was made a public holiday in 2008.

People across China will enjoy a three-day holiday to reunite with their families.

What you can do in Ningbo

When was the last time that you paid attention to the moon? In cities such as Ningbo, high-rise buildings and skyscrapers often hide it from view and city lights dim the moonlight to background illumination.

Here are eight places visitors shouldn't miss enjoying the moon in Ningbo. They are Wenchang Pavilion, Yuehu Lake, Sanjiangkou, Tengtou Scenic Area, Shipu Beach, Dongqianhu

Lake, Baiyan Mountain and Danshanchishui.

Apart from that, you can taste mooncakes with local flavour in Ningbo.

It is learnt that different parts of China have widely varying diets and therefore countless mooncake flavours. Traditional fillings include nuts and seeds, salted egg yolk, jujube paste, and bean paste. While this year in Ningbo, there are new flavours such as the "red beauty", a species of orange known grown in Xiangshan county.

Also, modern flavours such as ice cream can be found in Ningbo. At a Haagen-Dazs store, the mooncakes are crispy ice-cream sandwiches with flavours including vanilla, coffee, and berry. "They are popular with young consumers," the shop staff said.



SPOTLIGHT

Eighteen Ningbo Enterprises Selected '2022 China Top 500 Private Enterprises'

By Dong Na

Recently, the list of "2022 China Top 500 Private Enterprises" was released, and a total of 18 private enterprises were selected in Ningbo, with the number of enterprises on the list increasing by two compared to last year. Among them, Youngor Group, Ningbo Jintian Copper Group, and China-Base Ningbo Group ranked 52nd, 67th, and 77th respectively.

In addition to the above three 100 billion enterprises, Ningbo has 15 private enterprises on the list, including Grand Resources Group, AUX Group, Deli Group, and Sunny Optical Technology Group.

Ningbo has 19 private enterprises listed in the "2022 China Top 500 Private Enterprises in Manufacturing", the number of listed enterprises is 1 less than last year; four private enterprises are listed in the "2022 China Top 100 Private Enterprises in Services", the number of listed enterprises is the same as last year.

According to the latest research on private enterprises above state-designated-scale in Ningbo, the 225 private enterprises participating in the survey had total revenue of 1.62 trillion yuan in 2021.

The role of the private economy as the main force of Ningbo's economic and social development has become more prominent. In 2021, the value added of industrial private enterprises in Ningbo grew by 13.0%, pulling the city's industrial value-added growth rate of 7.5 percentage points, with a contribution rate of 62.8%; private enterprises also accounted for 70.4% of the city's foreign trade import and export volume.

The survey of private enterprises above state designated scale in Ningbo has been conducted for 24 years, and the number of private enterprises in 2021 has increased by 51 compared to the previous year. Among them, 35 enterprises are above 10 billion, an increase of three compared to the previous year; there is one new private enterprise of 100 billion, namely China-Base Ningbo Group.

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双语汇 Different Tongues

宁波植物园：四季宜行的“植物王国”

By Xu Zhuowei

The Ningbo Botanical Garden, located in the Zhenhai New City, is divided into three areas: sports and leisure area, popular science and sightseeing area, and flower gardening area. It is built to promote ecology, science popularization, tourism, and leisure.

宁波植物园地处镇海新城，分为体育休闲植物区、科普观光植物区和花卉园艺植物区三大片区，兼具生态、科普、旅游、休闲功能。

The garden has introduced more than 630 original plant species and more than 2,000 horticultural varieties. More than 25,000 trees have been planted, making it the "Kingdom of Plants". The bo-

tanical garden presents different scenery in four seasons alternately. People can enjoy roses in spring, lotus in summer, the sight of golden osmanthus in autumn, and plum blossom in winter.

全园共引进植物原种630余种，园艺品种2000余种，已栽植乔木25000余株，“植物王国”雏形初具。植物园打造了“春赏蔷薇夏品莲，秋看金桂冬探梅”的四季植物景观体验区，四季交替呈现出不同的景色。

The "Plant Evolution Road", "Overwater Forest", Chinese Rose Garden, and Orchid Garden are several highlights of the botanical garden. In addition to the beautiful plant landscape, the garden also held numerous



The Ningbo Botanical Garden. /宁波植物园。

[Photo by Tang Yan]唐严 摄

events, such as flower arrangement art exchange exhibition, green light music festival, summer light and shadow art festival, nature science

class, and gardening salon that attract citizens and tourists to visit.

“植物进化之路”“水上森林”、月季园、兰园等是植物园的几大观

赏亮点。除了美丽的植物景观，园区还举行插花艺术交流展、绿光音乐节、夏季光影艺术节、自然科普课堂、园艺沙龙等活动，吸引了无数市民和游客。

