

Striving Towards a Modern Coastal Metropolis

# Ningbo's Best Outdoor Destinations for Autumn

By Dong Na

Autumn is here in Ningbo. Many citizens are making the most of the great weather to head to the surrounding hills and villages to enjoy the beauty of this season.

## Train Café in the Rice Fields

In autumn, many visitors flock to the golden rice paddies of Maoxin Village in Gulin Town, Haishu. Recently, a new café has opened up in the village—in the middle of a field, in the form of an eight-car double-decker train.

In the fifth car of the decommissioned old train, baristas prepared coffee for the patrons, who took advantage of the plentiful indoors and outdoors seating to drink in the charming rural scenery. Many took photos standing next to the classic-style train engine.

Each carriage of the train has a different theme; the interior decorations are expected to be fully completed by November. The first two are designed to resemble old passenger trains of the 70s and 80s; the third will be a children's play space; the fourth will serve simple meals in a cozy, retro-style environment; the last three will sell Gulin's special agricultural products.

## Picking Persimmon in Shilin Village

Persimmons on the mountains of Shilin Village, Dalan Town, Yuyao, are ripening. Seen from afar, the village appears to be decked out in adorable little red lanterns.

Shilin Village has a long history of cultivating persimmons, earning it much fame across eastern Zhejiang.

The "Diaohong" ("dangling red") is Shilin's finest variety.



Siming Mountain.

[Photo by Tang Yan]

When ripe, Diaohong persimmons are brightly- red, thin-skinned, juicy, and sweet. Other varieties grown in the village come in all colors and flavors: white and green, crispy and soft. At present, there are more than 33 acres of persimmons planted in the village, and the annual fruit output exceeds 100,000 kg.

Yuyao hosts an annual Persimmon Festival to highlight scenic destinations and routes, boutique B&Bs, and pick-your-own farms. There is also a photography/vlog contest on the theme of persimmons. In 2021, Dalan Town received 842,900 visitors, generating RMB 101 million of income from tourism.

## Hiking on Tingxiling Ancient Road

With the arrival of autumn, trees flanking the Tingxiling trail in Yinzhou District are gradually turning from green to yellow. Hikers can see ripening fruit trees, butterflies fluttering hither and thither, and dandelions swaying in the breeze.

The Tingxiling Ancient Road is known as one of Ningbo's prettiest hiking trails. Before last year, there was only the northern section, connecting Zhoujia Village in the north to Chengyang Village in the south. Paved with gravel, the trail runs along gentle ridges, through

timeless forests, next to babbling streams.

The new southern section is bordered by newly-cultivated fields of flowers. There are three pavilions and a tea room for visitors to rest, plus a viewing platform affording a panorama of the surrounding countryside. The trail also takes hikers past historical rock carvings.

## River Tracing in Xikou Town

In Xikou Town, the landscape around Mingxi River is simply gorgeous. The miles-long waterway feeds into the Tingxia Lake Reservoir, an important source of freshwater for the peo-

ple of Ningbo.

Mingxi River is currently one of the best-preserved ecosystems in Ningbo. Clumps of Saccharum grass, a tall, reedy plant, grow on the wide river banks.

Under the afternoon sunlight, the Saccharum's plumes appear magically iridescent. These plants can be found along the entire course of the River, adding to its beauty.

Above the river, red leaves are already dyeing the hillsides in a bright and glorious scarlet.

Upstream the Zhuling Reservoir, the gravelly banks of the River are great places for picnic, popular with city dwellers on week-

## SPOTLIGHT

### Chrysanthemums Exhibited at Ningbo Botanical Garden

By Xu Zhuowei

Autumn is the time to enjoy chrysanthemums in bloom.

On October 24, just inside Gate 1 of the Ningbo Botanical Garden, the staff were busily setting up plant displays for the 6<sup>th</sup> Ningbo Botanical Garden Chrysanthemum Exhibition, which opened on October 28.

The centerpiece of the exhibition is a 200m<sup>2</sup> floral installation, featuring a six-meter tall "basket of flowers" surrounded by five stylized lions inspired by traditional Chinese lion dances.

The stunning display was the result of careful planning on the part of the Ningbo Botanical Garden's expert group, who designed the structure and layout of the installations, identified the flower varieties and shaping techniques required, and oversaw the assembly to ensure an impressive presentation. The chrysanthemum exhibition's main area is the Orchid Garden, with 40,000-plus pots of chrysanthemums representing over 900 varieties, including five of China's very best and select varieties from Japan and Europe. Advanced techniques were employed to shape the plants into twelve different forms, including single-bloom, multi-bloom, massive, miniature, tower-shaped, cascading, and mushroom-shaped. Individual floral installations can be found near Gate 1, Gate 3, the boat dock, and lakeside restaurant.

"The landscaping at the Orchid Garden is near completion, while the largest floral installation is still being assembled. The work will be done by the 27<sup>th</sup>, ready for the opening on the 28<sup>th</sup>," said Xu Yiwen, a staff member of the Horticulture Department of Ningbo Botanical Garden, on Tuesday. The chrysanthemum exhibition will last for one month.

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## 双语汇 Different Tongues

### 月宫山:邂逅这片“粉雾海”

By Jin Lu

Pink muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*) on Yuegong Hill, Dongshan Village, Tangxi Town of Yinzhou District is in full blossom, attracting visitors eager to enjoy and photograph the sight.

近日,鄞州区塘溪镇东山月宫山上,满坡的粉黛乱子草如期绽放,吸引了不少市民前来打卡拍照。

The plant's blooming season lasts from mid-September to mid-November. Due to the pink, feathery look of its flowers, it has become a new favorite in urban landscaping.

粉黛乱子草的花期通常从9月中旬起,可持续至11月中旬。它的花色呈现粉红色,花穗远观像是鸟儿的羽毛。

On the top of the hill, there is a large, rippling field of pink muhly grass, making it look as if the hilltop has been entirely dyed in pink. What a gorgeous, magical sight!

大片的粉黛乱子草将整个山顶染红,伴着微风,粉色的海洋掀起一层层波浪,亦梦亦幻,煞是好

看。 Standing on the pink hilltop, visitors can enjoy a panoramic view of the nearby Xiangshan Port, historical villages, and wind farms.

站在粉色的山坡远望,象山港、古村落、风车公路尽收眼底。

The fields of pink amidst green rolling hills are simply captivating.

粉色花海与青山交相辉映,令人陶醉。



Visitors take photos in a field of pink muhly grass. 游客在粉黛乱子草间拍照留念。

[Photo by Tang Yan] 唐严 摄

