

0 Striving Towards a Modern Coastal Metropolis

Ningbo's Best Destinations for Autumn, Part II

By Xu Zhuowei

Late autumn is a great time to go on day trips around the city. Ningbo has no lack of popular destinations. There are dozens of hiking trails, photogenic villages, and golden farms waiting to be discovered!

'Path of Gold' in the Siming Mountains

Late autumn is the prettiest time in the Siming Mountains.

The road to Tangtian Village in Simingshan Town of Yuyao are packed with cars as visitors flock over to walk down the beautiful "Path of Gold", nestled deep in the Siming Mountains. The name of the trail is Qixiakeng Historical Trail, part of an especially scenic region that had inspired some of the most famous poets of the Tang dynasty many centuries ago.

With the weather getting colder, the needles of the golden larch turn yellow, shining brilliantly in the sunlight. When the breeze blows, the needles fall and cover the trail below, forming a carpet several centimeters thick, hence the name "Path of Gold". Footsteps on the bed of needles are a soft, rustling sound.

To get to the trail, set 幸福水库 ("Xing Fu Shui Ku", or "Xingfu Reservoir") as the destination on your navigation app. The final stretch of paved road will end at a local orchard. Enter the orchard on foot, find the northward mountain path, follow it for 20 minutes or so over a hilltop and beyond, and you will reach the "Path of Gold", flanked by tall golden larch trees. Get ready to be amazed by the sight!

Rice Field Campsite

Autumn is harvest time in the golden rice paddies.

The Daoxiang Campsite near the Pond Cypress Viewing Area in Liangnong Town, Yuyao has become incredibly popular



Siming Mountains.

[Photo by Tang Yan]

with day-trippers. Some sit under canopies, sipping tea and chatting. Some walk into the golden fields to take photos or simply savor the peace and quiet of the countryside.

There are water bamboo fields and farmers' fish ponds near the campsite. "Compared with other campsites, Daoxiang is more rustic." Ba Ren, the owner of Daoxiang, said that to add an extra touch of rural charm, he borrowed ten grey geese from farmers to keep in the fields.

Every once in a while, Daoxiang holds a music festival. Surrounded by rolling green hills, farmland, Siming Lake, and the pond cypress grove, Daoxiang is the perfect place to immerse yourself in the great outdoors and get close to nature.

Chrysanthemum Exhibition at Zhaobaoshan

The annual Chrysanthemum Exhibition at Zhaobaoshan, Zhenhai has started! A total of 11 installations have been put up along Yanjiang Road, at Zhenhai People's Park, and near Congyuan Road metro station.

At the entrance of Zhenhai People's Park, large chrysanthemums installations shaped like elephants, flower baskets, and towers have become the center of attention, sparking great joy in many young visitors. Their parents, equally impressed by the displays, snap photo after photo on their phones.

In the evening, ornamental lighting illuminates the flowerbeds and installations along

Yanjiang Road in a multi-colored, dreamy glow. On the banks of the quiet Yong River, pale yellow chrysanthemums border the railings, ruffled by a gentle, cool breeze. Near bridges and around squares, countless pots of chrysanthemums have been artfully placed in huge arrangements.

This chrysanthemum exhibition opened on October 30 and will last until November 27. Definitely worth a visit!

Historical Village After Trendy Makeover

The fields near Zoumatang Village, Jiangshan Town are turning yellow once again. This village, a birthplace of many great scholars, is now a trendy destination with many boutique cafés and hip attractions.

Up until a year ago, Zoumatang Village's main attraction was its lotus pond and history of producing learned men. This year, through a rural revitalization project, the village transformed 16 unused residences and plots along the main road into modern attractions: cafés, campsites, fun farms, boutique hotels, restaurants, tea houses, bars, and libraries. The project revamped the village's style, giving it a brand-new look.

Nowadays at Zoumatang, you can often see fashion-savvy tourists sipping cups of coffee on wicker chairs next to the lotus pond, occasionally snapping selfies. Others prefer the fine-dining restaurant, with a spectacular view of the golden rice paddies that stretch to the horizon and beyond.

0 SPOTLIGHT

Cicheng Rice Cakes are on the Market

By Dong Na

We are in the midst of late-year rice's harvest season. The newly-harvested crop is perfect for making rice cakes. In Cicheng, Ji-nanbei District, known as "China's rice cake capital", rice product factories are having the busiest time of the year.

This year, Cicheng's factories are busier than usual. In the Cicheng Rice Cake Industrial Park, many workers have to rise particularly early in the morning to meet production schedules.

The company Lvhe Foods started making this year's rice cakes on October 18. On the first few days, they used 1.5 tons of rice per day. But a week later, the amount rose to 2.5 tons. Now, the company churns out more than 3.25 tons of rice cakes and other rice-based products daily.

With 2023's Lunar New Year falling early (in January), consumer demand is high. The factories' "final sprint" will begin in December, by which time their daily rice use is expected to reach 5 tons.

Cicheng rice cakes have long been renowned for their refined production techniques and the quality of the late-year rice used. Cicheng manufacturers only start production after harvest time, in the brief window between mid or late October and Chinese New Year of the next year.

In addition to original-flavor rice cakes, manufacturers are also actively catering to market preferences with flavors such as mugwort, brown sugar, pumpkin, and more.

Creatively-shaped rice cakes are particularly popular this year, with many customers ordering in large quantities. Lvhe Foods is planning to offer a wide range of rice cake gift packages. The factory expects to double its total production volume this year.

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0 双语汇 Different Tongues

松兰山: 感受自然风光和人文景致

By Jin Lu

Songlanshan Resort, with an area of 31.22 square kilometers, lies in Xiangshang county of Ningbo.

松兰山旅游度假区位于浙江省宁波市象山县, 总面积约31.22平方公里。It boasts beautiful scenery and friendly tourist facilities. A 12-km sightseeing road between the hills and the beach outlines a long, winding contour. It is the only resort in eastern China where visitors can enjoy the sight of the seaside, surrounding hills, majestic cliffs, golden beaches, and beautiful islands while savoring local delicacies—all in one place. Songlanshan is incredibly popular with tourists.

度假区风景优美, 设施完善, 是浙东地区唯一拥有“山、海、岛、崖、滩、物”六大特点的滨海资源地区。山海间一条长12公里的观光公路勾勒出曲折绵长的海岸线, 吸引大量游客前来。

On the hills are lush vegetation and refreshing air, all of which contribute to a pleasant environment.

景区植被茂盛, 花草美丽, 空气清新, 环境舒适。

Additionally, there is the Mituo Temple, built in the Song Dynasty (960-1279). There is also a statue of the famous 16th-century military general Qi Jiguang near the coastline, serving as Songlanshan's guardian figure.

此处还有始建于宋代的弥陀寺, 深掩绿树花丛中。抗倭名将戚继光的雕像如松兰山的守护神, 屹立在海滨。



Songlanshan Resort./ 松兰山旅游度假区。

[Photo by Tang Yan] 唐严 摄

