

0 Striving Towards a Modern Coastal Metropolis

Appreciate Spring Flowers in Ningbo

By Dong Na

March is the best time of the year in Ningbo to see flowers in full bloom. Peach blossoms, tulips, rapeseed flowers and cherry blossoms are showing off their vibrant colors around the city, in Zhongshan Park, at Tianyige Museum, and at Dongqian Lake, drawing many enthusiastic tourists.

Rapeseed Flowers

One springtime sight that you absolutely shouldn't miss while in Ningbo is the stunning rapeseed flower fields. In a rapeseed farm in Luotuo Subdistrict, Zhenhai District, beautiful golden flowers have begun to bloom across seemingly endless fields, attracting visitors who eagerly take photos.

In 2022, Luotuo Subdistrict started growing a new variety called "Yingchun No. 1", developed by the Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Yingchun No. 1 blooms much earlier than ordinary rapeseed varieties and has a flowering period of about three months.

In Dayan Town, Fenghua District, there is also a huge rapeseed farm, where flowers carpet the terraced fields in bright yellow.

The Fenghua Xifan Farm, an iconic landmark of Dayan tourism, is one of the most famous rapeseed flower-viewing destinations in Ningbo. Since it is located in a mountainous, high-altitude area, the rapeseed flowers in Dayan bloom later than those down in the plains. As of this week, they are only in partial bloom. Peak bloom is expected around March 20. The flowering cycle will last about one month.

Nanling Village, Ninghai County, is also a wonderful place to admire rapeseed flowers. Every year, rapeseed flowers are grown in terraced fields spanning more than 200 hectares in the town, transforming the landscape



The plum blossoms are blooming by the Dongqian Lake.

[Photo by Yan Long]

into a marvelous sea of golden flowers in March.

Cherry Blossoms

In Yinzhou District, many citizens are flocking to Sakura Park to see cherry blossoms in full bloom. On the afternoon of Feb 26, a couple was having their wedding photos taken in the Park. The bride requested a shot under one particularly magnificent tree. Nearby, a young lady and her friend took selfies with the pink blossoms in the background.

Cherry trees will soon enter

peak bloom in Cherry Blossom Valley (Ying Hua Gu) in Xikou Town, the latest blossom-viewing destination popular among citizens. In a couple of weeks, hundreds of cherry trees lining a winding mountain road that leads to Siming Bridge will be in bloom, signally the coming of spring.

In spring, cherry trees erupt in billowy pink and white petals that often last several weeks. There are hundreds of species, varieties, and hybrids of flowering cherry trees, which are typically deciduous. Some varieties bloom early in the spring, while others are late bloomers.

Plum Blossoms

Plum blossoms are in full bloom in the Plum Garden in Yongwang Village, Zhenhai District, attracting hordes of visitors. Some sing under the plum trees, some dance before cameras, while others relax under a tent, enjoying the fragrant embrace of the flowers.

Other areas around the city where plum blossoms abound include Plum Blossom Valley in Fenghua District, Longquan Mountain in Yuyao District, Zhongshan Park in Haishu District, Zhishan Park in Cixi Dis-

trict, among others.

As a symbol of elegance, resilience, and modesty, the plum blossom is one of the most famous flowers in Chinese culture.

The plum blossom originated along China's Yangtze River. It has been cultivated in China for about 3,000 years, starting from the Six Dynasties era (AD 222-589).

Plum trees are usually between four and ten meters tall. Their trunk is fairly slender, with greyish bark. The flowers sprouting from the branches are either white or pink; sometimes, the trees bear fruit.



0 SPOTLIGHT

The Flavour of Spring in Ningbo

By Gou Wen

Spring is coming, which means it is time for fresh seasonal vegetables to reappear on the shelves of supermarkets and greengrocers.

In the Xingyang produce market, Ma Lan Tou (*Kalimeris indica*, a type of leafy green), bamboo shoots, and broad beans are popular with customers.

One stall owner said that springtime vegetables will be in season for the next month.

Many citizens are eager to purchase spring greens. "I'm here to buy 'Ma Lan Tou' and 'Hua Lian Cai', because these vegetables are the freshest now," said Miss Zheng, a customer.

In Ningbo, shepherd's purse is called "Hua Lian Cai", which literally means "spotted-face vegetable", because mature shepherd's purse will bear small white flowers, hence the "spotty" appearance. The best time to enjoy shepherd's purse is February and March. They are the favorite of many local citizens.

Chinese toon leaves are another much-loved vegetable, despite the limited supply. "Chinese toon leaves are only in season for a short period. The price is 120 yuan per kilogram, which is relatively expensive," said Wu Weidong, a vendor. He carries limited stock every day, most of which are sold to old customers.

"Generally, the price of toon leaves will drop by mid-March," he said.

In Ningbo, the varieties of spring vegetables is as numerous as methods to prepare them.

One classic dish is scrambled eggs with toon leaves. Wash and chop up toon leaves, whisk with eggs, then stir-fry in a pan for several minutes until the egg liquid solidifies.

Ma Lan Tou can be served as a cold salad. First, blanch the leaves, drain dry, and chop finely. Then, cut dried spiced tofu into small pieces. Finally, mix the tofu with the chopped leaves and seasonings such as sesame oil.

The main reason for the popularity of spring vegetables is their fragrant, herbaceous taste. Given the limited time they are in season, it is no wonder citizens are flocking to the nearest market to get a load of "the flavour of spring".

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0 双语汇 Different Tongues

樱花公园：迎接粉色的春天

By Jin Lu

Ningbo's Sakura Park is located at the intersection of Zhongxing Road and Zhongshan East Road, and is accessible from the Sakura Park Station of Ningbo Rail Transit Line 1. The Park covers approximately 31,000 square meters.

樱花公园位于中兴路和中山路交叉路口，宁波轨道交通一号线樱花公园站站口，面积约31000平方米。

Every time the cherry blossoms bloom, their charming and vibrant pink colors light up the season. Thanks to the recent warm and sunny weather, some early season cherry blossoms in the Park have bloomed, signaling the start of a picturesque spring.

每当樱花开放，娇艳欲滴的粉

色便惊艳了整个春天。这几天，天气晴好，在宁波樱花公园内，部分早樱已绚丽绽放，一派春意盎然，处处呈现“人在画中游”的美丽画卷。

Sakura Park was built in 1997 to commemorate the establishment of a sister-city relationship between Ningbo and Nagaokakyo, Japan. In May 2009, due to the construction of Ningbo Rail Transit Line 1, the park was closed. In 2015, the park began reconstruction, which was completed in April 2017.

樱花公园建成于1997年，是为纪念宁波市与日本长冈京市缔结友好城市而建的。2009年5月，因地铁1号线建设，公园被关闭。2015年樱花公园开始重建，2017年4月份完成重建。

Sakura Park cultivates 26 cherry blossom varieties, including the Somei Yoshino, the



Early-blooming trees in Ningbo's Sakura Park. /宁波樱花公园内早樱绽放。

[Photo by Tang Yan] 唐严 摄

Kanzan, and the Chinese red. It is easily reachable from the subway station of the same name. Mid-March is the best

time to view cherry blossoms, so let's go to Sakura Park together!

樱花公园引进了染井吉野、关

山樱、中国红等26个樱花品种，且从地铁口出来可直达赏樱栈桥，交通便捷。3月中旬，将是赏樱最佳时间，一起去樱花公园逛一逛吧！

