

Expat in Close Touch with the Song Culture at Yonghe Village

Striving towards a modern
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建设现代化滨海大都市



A sunny day in mid-May, Marina Albernaz, who came to China three and a half years ago, was invited by *Ningbo Evening News* to explore the poetry culture of the Song Dynasty and some rural tourism destinations in Yonghe Village, Ninghai County. She learned about the local history and ancient scholars of the Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) Dynasties, visited the historical Guijin Bridge and the newly established Chengxiang Academy, and tried paragliding for the first time.

A marketing coordinator at Georgia School Ningbo (GSN), Marina enjoys cultural and culinary excursions to Chinese villages and is always eager to immerse herself in traditional Chinese customs, local history, and culture.

The Chengxiang Academy (Chengxiang literally refers to the post of prime minister in ancient China), with its extraordinary red walls and wide-eaved and black-tiled roofs, caught Marina's eye. With curiosity, she walked inside and encountered Wang Sufen, party chief of the local government. Madam Wang introduced Ye Mengding, Ninghai's first prime minister in the Song Dynasty, and other main sites around the academy including Chengxiang's Mansion, Chengxiang's Tomb, and an ancestral temple of the Ye's.

The Chengxiang Academy, with its Song architectural style, will be a comprehensive center for holding Chinese traditional wedding ceremonies, cultural activities, and exhibitions about Ye and the poetry culture of the Song Dynasty. The academy covers an area of 3,304 square meters, with a construction area of about 2,324 square meters and a total investment of about 8 million yuan. At present, the main building has been completed, and its interior decoration and exhibition preparation will be finished later this year.

Gaining some insight into the stories of Ye and the poetry culture in his day – especially in the aspects

of customs, virtues, and architecture – Marina was attracted by a moss-covered stone arch bridge with white loquat trees planted on both sides. It is 14.6 meters long, 3.5 meters wide and 5 meters high, spanning 9 meters across the river, Madam Wang introduced. She then presented to Marina a huge ancient stone stele engraved with "Guijin-qiao" (a Chinese phrase meaning "a Bridge in memory of one's returning home in glory"). The bridge was built in 1237 when Ye Mengding passed the highest imperial civil service exam in ancient China.

The last adventure of Marina's trip was Eversky Air Park, where she tried paragliding for the first time. The stable and strong thermal airflow and open space make this paragliding base one of the best in East China. Before her first flight Marina got detailed simulation training from Jay, owner of the base. He showed her how to safely put on the parachute harness, explained the steering system and ensured that the chest protection was equipped correctly. Jay stressed the importance of running in the direction of the wind to take off. Paragliding must be done under tight weather conditions, only on bright days with no strong winds, he added. Safety notices and insurance need to be signed and when Marina was in the air, the instructor would accompany her. "I took off with my heart pounding and my legs shaking. I was nervous, but I'd love to do it again," Marina said after landing.

Located in the north of Huchen Township, Ninghai County, Yonghe Village consists of four natural villages – Shangzheng, Xiazheng, Shangzhai and Xiazhai – with 758 households and a population of 2,326. It is striving to develop rural tourism by placing emphasis on the Song Dynasty's poetry culture. Lingfeng Temple, Shisun Park, Chengxiang Cultural Square, and many other historical sites will be new attractions. The one-day trip of Marina was organized by *Ningbo Evening News*, providing expats in Ningbo a unique window into rural tourism, traditional culture and local history.

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Proofreaders: Puyang Rong,
Wang Fang, Jason Mowbray



Marina tried paragliding.
Photo by Marina Albernaz



Marina visited Guijin-qiao.
Photo by Zhu Jiaka

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5月30日	8:30-16:00	海曙区集士港石塘村5号公变
5月30日	8:30-16:30	海曙区石碶宋严王10号公变
5月30日	8:30-16:30	海曙区石碶石碶村7号公变
5月30日	8:30-17:00	海曙区鄞江下吕家4号公变
5月30日	8:30-16:30	宁波江北外滩街道:大庆新村、德记巷、家电三厂
5月31日	8:30-16:00	海曙区集士港芦港村12号公变
5月31日	8:30-16:30	海曙区石碶雅渡5号公变
5月31日	8:30-17:00	海曙区鄞江树桥新村6号公变
5月31日	13:30-17:00	宁波江北庄桥街道:广厦怡庭南区广厦怡庭21、22、23、26、27幢有短时停电两次
5月31日	8:30-16:30	宁波江北慈城镇:勤丰翻水站
5月31日	7:30-16:30	宁波江北慈城镇:慈湖一期部分用户短时停电两次
5月31日	8:45-12:45	5418016948 嘉顺保温容器、5412120256 鑫鑫机械、5412120666 新城开关、元祥村3号公变、元祥村4号公变
6月1日	8:30-16:30	海曙区石碶后仓2号公变
6月1日	9:00-17:00	海曙区鄞江三李7号公变
6月1日	8:30-16:30	海曙区石碶洛兹广场公变
6月1日	8:30-17:00	海曙区鄞江晴江麻滩1号公变
6月1日	8:30-16:30	宁波江北:江湾花苑小区16号-1-326车位(充电桩)、有线电视机房1、2、电信机房、通信机房、怡东机房有短时停电
6月1日	8:30-16:30	宁波江北孔浦街道:嘉璐冷库、海军东舰后勤部
6月1日	8:30-16:30	宁波江北孔浦街道:丛中笑
6月2日	8:30-16:00	海曙区集士港古庵村9号公变
6月2日	8:30-16:00	海曙区集士港祝家桥村2号16号公变
6月2日	8:00-16:00	海曙区石碶西洋港村16号公变
6月2日	8:30-16:00	海曙区石碶车唐4号公变
6月2日	8:30-16:30	海曙区石碶施家村10号公变
6月2日	8:30-16:30	海曙区石碶城隍庙卫生院1号配电室1号公变
6月2日	8:30-16:30	宁波江北慈城镇:张陆2号公变
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5月23日	8:30-16:30	海曙区石碶涵锦5320049453;铭远5318000773
5月24日	8:00-16:30	宁波江北慈城镇:惠之星新材料科技有限公司、乍山焊割工具厂、宁波鑫架斯磁业有限公司、甬锻机械科技制造公司、宁波市江北振邦纺织负荷面料有限公司
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